

PROSE

Chapter - 1: A Wrong Man in Worker's Paradise

— Rabindranath Tagore

Comprehension Questions

I. Answer briefly the following questions, (choose the answer from the alternatives given below)

1) "The man indulged in mad whims". Who considers the man's work as "mad whims?"

- a) The man himself
- b) the writer
- c) the people in workers' paradise

Answer:

(c) the people in workers' paradise.

2) Explain the comparison in Para 3

- a) 'some boys' compared to
- b) Their not studying' compared to
- c) Yet passing in the test' compared to

Answers:

(a) the artist.

(b) he is wasting all his time in a painting.

(c) going to heaven.

3) When the men say "We haven't a moment to spare" (para 6) it means that

- a) they are over-burdened with their work
- b) they are happy and proud to be so busy
- c) they are indifferent

Answer:

(b) they are happy and proud to be busy.

4) Why is the torrent in the workers' paradise silent?

Answer:

It doesn't waste its energy in making a sound.

5) "the girl's hair was carelessly done", (para 9) This indicates that

- a) she was interested only in her work

- b) she did not like to dress her hair properly
- c) she was unaware of any sense of dressing

Answer:

(a) she was interested only in her work.

6) Why did the “girl of the silent torrent” feel sorry for the man?

Answer:

She noticed that he had no work to do and was sitting idle.

7) “The girl scanned the painted pot at home secretly”. (Para 27) This line indicates that

- a) the girl was impressed by art and beauty
- b) the girl did not want the artist to know that she was impressed by his work.
- c) the girl was afraid of the elders’ rebuke for wasting her time.

Answer:

(c) the girl was afraid of the elder’s rebuke for wasting her time.

8) “The hurrying feet” of the girl became “less hurried” because

- a) she became lazy like the man
- b) she was attracted by art
- c) she was trying to re-arrange priorities
- d) the meaningless was slowly becoming meaningful.

Answer:

(d) the meaningless was slowly becoming meaningful.

9) Why did the elders of the workers’ paradise become anxious?

Answer:

More and more people in the worker’s paradise were becoming idle, wasting their time on painting and sculpture.

10) The girl follows the man out of the workers’ paradise. This suggests that the girl.

- a) was bored with workers’ paradise
- b) was fascinated with the man’s skill in painting
- c) saw new possibilities open-up before her.

Answer:

(c) saw new possibilities open up before her.

11) What does the line “the man never believed in mere utility” mean?

Answer:

The man appreciated the beauty in everything and liked those which pleased the senses even though they were not useful for any activity.

12) What changes occur in the girl's behavior/attitude at the following stages in the story?

a) Before she agreed to give her pitcher to the wrong man

Answer:

When the wrong man offered to draw pictures on her pitcher, the girl was slightly angry because she thought pictures did not help in making a pitcher more useful.

b) After she gave her pitcher to the wrong man

Answer:

After the artist drew lines and colors on her pitcher, the girl was puzzled at their meaning. She was very much attracted by the drawing and looked at it again and again. She was so impressed by it that the next day she walked slowly to her work, engrossed in thinking about the colors and lines.

c) When the wrong man offered to make ribbons for her

Answer:

The girl offered her ribbons more readily than before and used the ribbons immediately too. She had to spend more time trying them, and this resulted in a lot of time getting wasted.

d) When she followed the wrong man out of the worker's paradise

Answer:

The girl no longer hesitated to go with the wrong man. She went running after him, asking him to stop for her. Her love for art was total.

13) At the end of the story, there is a complete change in the girl's attitude to life. Who should the credit go to? (is it to the idler – artist's ability to impact others? or is it the girl's readiness and the open-mindedness to change?)

Answer:

Firstly, the artist has the ability to draw very well and attract the attention of others towards his art. Secondly, though the girl is not immediately ready to give attention to his art, she is open-minded enough to consider it when he draws on her pitcher. After paying more

attention to his art, she becomes so impressed with it that she is ready to go with him when he leaves the workers' paradise.

II. Close Study.

Read the following extracts carefully. Discuss in pairs and then write the answers to the questions given below them.

1) "But the Moving Finger writes even in heaven."

a) What does 'Moving Finger' mean here?

Answer:

It can mean God or Fate that keeps an account or record of everything that a man does.

b) What figure of speech is used in "Moving Finger"?

Answer:

Metonymy. (A part is used to refer to a whole: a moving finger is used to refer to a person who keeps an account of man's activities).

c) What does the sentence mean in the context?

Answer:

Even in heaven, records are kept. Further, though everything is expected to be perfect in heaven, mistakes are made.

2) "As a princess sees a lonely beggar and is filled with pity, so the busy girl of heaven was filled with pity."

a) Who is compared to a lonely beggar?

Answer:

The artist.

b) Why was the girl filled with pity?

Answer:

The girl was filled with pity to see that the artist had no work.

c) How did the girl offer to help him?

Answer:

She offered him work.

3) "When she set out for the torrent the next day, her hurrying feet were a little less hurried than before."

a) What had happened the previous 'night'?

Answer:

She had examined the lines and colors drawn by the artist on the pitcher for a long time and was now engrossed in thinking about them.

b) What does “hurrying feet” suggest?

Answer:

Since there were no thoughts worrying about her mind, her feet were moving fast.

c) Why did they become less hurried?

Answer:

She was lost in her thoughts about art.

III. Paragraph Writing.

Discuss in pairs or groups of four each the answers to the following questions. Individually note down the important points for each question and then develop the points into one paragraph answer.

1) Men in Workers' Paradise say “God! We haven't a moment to spare”(para 6). The man says, “I haven't a moment to spare for work” (para 11). Keeping in mind the above statements, contrast the attitude of the men in the paradise with that of the man (artist).

Answer:

- ✚ The men in workers' paradise had a lot of work to do; happy to do that work; no pleasure in just standing and chatting for a long time with one other.
- ✚ The artist was involved in visualizing and imagining beautiful pictures which he wanted to transfer onto some surface.
- ✚ The artist found pleasure in art whereas the people in workers' paradise found pleasure in working.

Paragraph: The men in workers' paradise had a lot of work to do and they were happy to do that work. They were glad to mention the huge amount of work they had. Hence they found no pleasure in just standing and chatting for a long time with one other. They found happiness in no activity other than work. The artist was involved in visualizing and imagining beautiful pictures which he wanted to transfer onto some surface. Hence he felt working would distract his mind which was full of colorful images. The artist found pleasure in

indulgence in 'art whereas the people in workers' paradise found pleasure in working. They had totally contrasting lifestyles.

2) There are two worlds in the story: the world of the idler – artist and the world of the inhabitants of the Workers' Paradise. Which world is better? Why?

Answer:

- ✚ The world of an artist filled with colors and designs.
- ✚ The world in the Workers' Paradise – filled with only work.
- ✚ Totally extreme worlds. Neither is good.
- ✚ The two worlds should come together.

Paragraph: The world of the idler- an artist is a world where the man has no time to spare for any work. He spends his time standing by a stream or painting some object which has no meaning or purpose. On the other hand, in the world of Workers' Paradise, men are busy at work. They have no time to spare for recreation or painting. To them time is precious and they have too much to do. Neither world is good. A life of idleness does not do any good. Working all the time with no breaks or entertainment is not good either. We should opt for a world where work and recreation are balanced.

3) Have a debate in the classroom on the following topic.

Aesthetics V/s Utility

You can make use of the following points:

Art for the sake of art × Art for making money

Knowledge for the sake of × Knowledge for the sake of a job knowledge

Man is not satisfied with bread alone.

Answers:

- ✚ Art for the sake of art × Art for making money
- ✚ Knowledge for the sake of × Knowledge for the sake of a job knowledge
- ✚ Man is not satisfied with bread alone.

Paragraph: When the individual creates art for the sake of art, his mind and soul are satisfied. He has done justice to his imagination and ability to create art. But even an artist has to survive, for which he needs food, clothing and shelter. Hence he should be ready to part with his products of art in exchange for money however he cannot create art only for the sake of earning money.

When Knowledge is accumulated for the sake of knowledge, it is not very relevant. When it is applied to real life problems, it becomes meaningful. For this purpose, the individual has to be engaged in a job which makes use of his knowledge.

Man cannot live by bread alone because he is not an animal like cow, deer or birds. He has a soul which needs to be satisfied through art and literature. It is these finer aspects of life that lift man's life above that of an animal's and make life beautiful and divine.

Chapter - 2: The Elixir of Life

— C.V. Raman

Comprehension Questions

I. Answer briefly the following questions.

1. What is the imaginary elixir of life?

Answer:

The divine amrita which can make man immortal.

2. What, according to the writer is the real elixir of life?

Answer:

Plain water.

3. What is the “wonderful difference” the writer talks about in paragraph 2?

Answer:

The ‘wonderful difference’ the writer talks about is between the two areas: the Libyan desert and the Nile Valley – the sea of billowing sand without a speck of green on the side of the Libyan desert and the green, fertile, densely populated area on the valley of the Nile in Egypt.

4. What brought about this wonderful difference?

Answer:

The wonderful difference was brought about by the water of the river Nile flowing down to the Mediterranean from its sources a couple of thousands of miles away.

5. What is the ‘cheering sight’, mentioned in paragraph 5?

Answer:

The ‘cheering sight’ to the writer is the filled rain-fed tanks that are so common in South India.

6. What does the writer compare water in a landscape too? Why does he make this comparison?

Answers:

The writer compares water in a landscape to the eyes in a human face. He makes this comparison because water reflects the mood of the hour, being bright and bay when the sun shines, turning to dark and gloomy when the sky is overcast.

7. How does the water in rainfed tanks get its color?

Answer:

The color of the water in rain-fed tanks is from the silt or finely- divided soil in suspension. This color varies with the nature of the earth in the catchment area and is most vivid immediately after a fresh inflow following rain.

8. What is the main cause of soil erosion?

Answer:

Sudden bursts of excessively heavy rain resulting in a large run off of surplus water are the principal factors causing soil erosion.

9. What other factors add to the erosion of precious soil?

Answer:

Contributory causes to the erosion of previous soil are the slope of the land, removal of the natural protective coat of vegetation, the existence of ruts along which the water can flow rapidly gathering momentum, and the absence of any checks to such flow.

10. How can soil erosion be prevented?

Answer:

Soil erosion can be prevented by terracing of the land, construction of bunds to check the flow of water, the practice of contour cultivation and the planting of appropriate types of vegetation.

11. How does the prevention of soil erosion serve a double purpose?

Answer:

Adoption of techniques preventing soil erosion would also help to conserve and keep the water where it is wanted, i.e., on and in the soil.

12. What are the two sources of water mentioned in paragraph 10?

Answer:

Rain and snowfall.

13. The land formed of silt in alluvial areas is always fertile (Say whether the statement is True or False).

Answer:

True.

14. _____ Takes place when water carrying silt mixes with the salt water of the sea
(Complete the sentence with the appropriate word).

Answer:

Erosion

15. Planting of the appropriate type of vegetation will result in _____

- a. the continuance of successful agriculture.
- b. the terracing of the land.
- c. preventing environmental pollution.
- d. reducing the momentum of the flow of water.

Answer:

(d) reducing the momentum of the flow of water.

16. What does the writer mean by 'civilized forests'?

Answer:

Forests created by the deliberate planting of saplings by human beings, as contrasted with wild and untamed natural jungles.

17. Mention any two advantages of civilized forests.

Answer:

Civilized forests would, directly and indirectly, prove a source of untold wealth to the country. They would check soil erosion and conserve the rainfall of the country from flowing away to waste.

18. How will the development of hydro-electric power help to overcome the inadequacy of water supply?

Answer:

The development of hydro-electric power would enable underground water to be tapped to a greater extent than at present, and thus help to overcome the difficulties arising from irregularity or inadequacy of other sources of supply.

19. Complete the following sentences with appropriate details:

a. The Nile Valley is the creation of _____

Answer:

the river itself. It was brought down as the finest silt in its flood waters, from the highlands of Abyssinia and from remote Central Africa, and laid down through the ages in the trough through which the Nile flows into the sea.

b. _____ are a 'cheering sight'.

Answer:

Rain-fed tanks in South India when they are full.

c. A remarkable feature of water is its power to carry _____

Answer:

silt or finely-divided soil in suspension.

d. It is the silt which gives _____ to the water in rainfed tanks

Answer:

the characteristic water.

e. _____ the foundation of all agriculture

Answer:

The upper layer of soil.

f. Ruts are formed by _____

Answer:

rapidly flowing rainwater.

g. Terracing of lands helps in _____

Answer:

preventing soil erosion.

h. Indian agriculture depends heavily on _____

Answer:

seasonal rainfall.

i. Farmyard manure should not be used as _____

Answer:

fuel.

j. _____ would enable the overall development of the rural economy.

Answer:

Availability of electric power.

II. Close Study:

Read the following extracts carefully. Discuss in pairs and then write the answers to the questions given below them.

1. Much of the Indian agriculture depends on seasonal rainfall and is therefore very sensitive to any failure or irregularity of the same

a. In what context does the writer say these words?

Answer:

The writer talks about soil erosion and the importance of conservation of water. Conservation of water would help agriculture at times of irregular or inadequate rainfall. The techniques of conservation of water would prevent soil erosion which is of great importance to agriculture.

b. What does "same" refer to?

Answer:

"Same" refers to rainfall in India.

c. Why is Indian agriculture "very sensitive"?

Answer:

Since Indian agriculture depends on seasonal rainfall and does not have many other sources of water, it is "very sensitive" – easily affected by inadequate or irregular rainfall.

2. They would check soil erosion and conserve the rainfall of the country from flowing away to waste and would provide the necessary supplies of cheap fuel, and thus render unnecessary the wasteful conversion of farmyard manure into a form of fuel.

a. What does "they" in the first line refer to?

Answer:

Vegetation like shrubs and trees grown in order to check soil erosion.

b. What is the cheap fuel referred to in the passage?

Answer:

Dried branches and leaves of trees grown to prevent soil erosion.

c. How would cheap fuel help the farmer?

Answer:

He could preserve the farmyard manure to enrich his farmland.

III. Paragraph Writing:

Discuss in pairs/groups of 4 each and answer the following questions. Note down the important points for each question and then develop the points into one paragraph answers.

1. How does C.V. Raman show that water is the real elixir of life?

Answers:

- Water makes the difference between a barren desert and a fertile valley teeming with life and vegetation.
- Water plays an important role in shaping the history of the earth.
- Water bodies add to the beauty of the scenery.
- Water has power to carry silt which is very necessary for agriculture.
- Water creates this silt by flowing over the rocks of the earth's crust.
- Water is the basis of all life, animals, plants or human beings.

Paragraph: C.V. Raman shows that water is the elixir of life. He gives us the example of the Libyan desert where there is no vegetation and not a single living thing visible. On the other hand, in the immediate neighbourhood the Nile Valley is teeming with vegetation, and people. The water of the Nile Valley has made all the difference. He says that water is a wonderful thing and it has shaped the history and the civilization of our earth. He also adds that the presence of water makes the countryside beautiful and it has enabled agriculture to thrive. Water enriches soil and makes it fertile. If water is used judiciously, it can improve our economy by generating electricity as well and provide us with cheap means of internal transport. He tells us that water is fundamental for human welfare.

2. What are the various causes of soil erosion? How can we prevent it?

Answers:

- Heavy rain
- Slope of land, removal of vegetation, ruts which enable water to flow faster and absence of any barriers to check flow of water.
- preventive action would be terracing of land, construction of bunds to check flow, contour cultivation, planting of vegetation.

Paragraph : C.V. Raman tells that soil erosion is a major problem in India. Soil erosion happens due to several reasons: Firstly, a sudden downpour of heavy rain can result in excess water carrying top soil into the sea. Secondly, the slope of the land and the removal

of the natural protective coat of vegetation, and the existence of ruts along which water can flow rapidly can give rise to erosion. Thirdly, the lack of bunds to prevent water from flowing forcefully can lead to erosion of soil.

3. What does C.V. Raman say about rain-fed tanks?

Answers:

- + Rain-fed tanks common in South India.
- + Beautiful when full.
- + Shallow but bottom does not show up.
- + Play a vital role in agriculture.
- + Are surprisingly large in size.

Paragraph : C. V. Raman tells us that rain-fed tanks are common in South India and they are beautiful when they are full. But they are not well maintained. These tanks are shallow. The water in these tanks is full of silt. These tanks play an important role in South Indian agriculture. Some of them are large and look beautiful when the sun rises or sets over them.

Chapter - 3: The Gift of the Magi

— By O. Henry

Comprehension Questions

I. Answer briefly the following questions.

1) How did Della save her one dollar and eighty-seven cents?

Answer:

Della had saved the money by bargaining hard about prices with the grocer, the vegetable man, and the butcher.

2) The writer gives details of Jim's flat. Pick out the details.

Answer:

It was a furnished flat at \$8 per week. There was nothing to describe. In the vestibule below was a letterbox into which no letter would go, and an electric button from which no mortal finger could coax a ring. Attached to the button was a card bearing the name "Mr. James Dillingham Young."

3) The card bearing the full name of Jim now had only one letter 'D' on it. State whether the statement is true or false.

Answer:

True

4) What were the most precious possessions of Jim and Della?

Answer:

The most precious possession of Jim was the gold watch that had been his father's and his grandfather's before him. Della's possession was her long rippling, shining hair that fell down like a cascade of brown waters.

5) How has the writer compared Della's hair to Queen of Sheba's jewels?

Answer:

The writer says that had the queen of Sheba lived in the flat across the airshaft, Della would have let her hair hang out the window some day to dry just to depreciate Her Majesty's jewels and gifts.

6) How has the writer compared Jim's watch to King Solomon's treasures?

Answer:

The writer says that had King Solomon been the janitor, with all his treasures piled up in the basement, Jim would have pulled out his watch every time he passed, just to see him pluck at his beard with envy.

7) Why did Della decide to sell her hair?

Answer:

Della wanted to buy a gift for Jim and she had only \$1.87 which was not sufficient to buy any gift. Hence she decided to sell her hair and buy a good gift with the money she would get.

8) How much money did she get for her hair?

Answer:

She got \$20 for her hair.

9) What did Della buy for Jim?

Answer:

Della bought a platinum fob chain to be used for Jim's watch in place of the old leather strap that he used.

10) How was the gift worthy of the watch?

Answer:

The platinum fob chain was simple and chaste in design, properly proclaiming its value by substance alone and not by meretricious ornamentation.

11) The writer says that the platinum chain was like Jim. How?

Answer:

Della feels that the platinum chain was like Jim. Quietness and value – the description applied to both.

12) What did Della try to fix before Jim get home?

Answer:

Della tried to fix her chopped hair with curls before Jim got home.

13) What was Jim's reaction when he saw Della without her lovely hair?

Answer:

Jim was dumb-struck upon seeing Della. His eyes were fixed upon Della, and there was an expression in them that she could not read.

14) What was Jim's gift for Della? Give a brief description of the gift.

Answer:

Jim's gift for Della was a set of combs, side, and back, that Della had worshipped long in a Broadway window. They were beautiful, expensive combs, made of pure tortoise shell, with jeweled rims – just the shade to wear in the beautiful brown hair of Della.

15) Were the gifts useful to each other?

Answer:

No, the gifts were not useful to either of them.

16) How did Della react when she saw Jim's gift to her?

Answer:

There was an ecstatic scream of joy when Della saw Jim's gift to her. Then immediately, there was a quick change to hysterical tears and wails. She recalled how much she had yearned for them. She hugged them to her bosom, and at length, looked up with dim eyes and a smile and assured Jim that her hair would grow very fast.

17) Jim and Della both gave up something dear to them. What does it tell us about them?

Answer:

We have been already told that Jim and Della are a loving couple. Even in their exigent condition, they desire to gift something to each other. Both keep their attempts to buy a gift a secret from each other. In order to gather the money needed to buy a gift, they sell the most precious things they possess. Though their gifts prove to be useless, they gain in love and satisfaction with each other.

18) O. Henry's stories often blend humor and pathos. The description of the card bearing Jim's name is an example of this. Can you identify one more example from the story?

Answer:

The mention of a pier-glass between the windows of the room is one more example of O. Henry's humour blended with pathos. A very thin and very agile person might, by observing his reflection in a rapid sequence of longitudinal strips, obtain a fairly accurate conception of his looks. Della, being slender, had mastered this art.

The other example is of Della's gift. When Jim looks at Della's gift, he just puts his hands under the back of his head and smiles. He tells Della to put away their Christmas presents for some time, as they were too nice to use just at that time.

19) Who were the Magi?

Answer:

The Magi were the wise men who brought gifts to the newborn Jesus. According to the Bible, the magi were three kings (Casper, Melchior, and Balthazar) who traveled to Bethlehem from somewhere in the East (probably Persia).

20) What is the writer's last word to the wise of these days?

Answer:

The writer says that these two, Della and Jim, were the wisest of all those who give gifts. Of all who gave and received gifts, they were the wisest. They were the Magi.

II. Close Study

Read the following extracts carefully. Discuss in pairs and then write the answers to the questions given below them.

1) She got out her curling irons and lighted the gas and went to work repairing the ravages made by generosity added to love.

What does 'generosity' refer to?

Answer:

The 'generosity' referred to was the readiness of Della to sacrifice the one precious thing she had-her shining brown hair.

b) What repairing work was carried out?

Answer:

Her hair was being curled in order to make it look pleasant.

c) Why was the girl repairing the ravages?

Answer:

Della knew that Jim would be shocked and disappointed to see her beautiful hair chopped off. Hence she tried to 'repair the savages'.

2) A mathematician or a wit would give you the wrong answer.

a) What is the question alluded to here?

Answer:

The question referred to here is 'Eight dollars a week or million a year – what is the difference?'

b) What is the 'right' answer?

Answer:

The cost of the flat doesn't matter as long as the people who live there love each other very much.

c) What is the implied meaning of the statement?

Answer:

In spite of their strained financial condition, Della and Jim were truly rich because they had a lot of love for each other and were ready to sacrifice their most prized possessions for each other.

III. Paragraph Writing:

Discuss in groups of 4 each the answers to the following questions. Individually note down the important points for each question and then develop the points into one paragraph answers.

1) Why are the gifts of Della and Jim compared to those of the Magi?

Answers:

- + The Magi brought gifts on their own, out of love for their lord.
- + They brought wonderful gifts, which could possibly be exchanged in case of duplication.
- + Della and Jim too brought gifts for each other, sacrificing their own precious possessions in the process.
- + Their gifts are greater than those of the Magi because they cannot be exchanged.

Paragraph: The gifts of Della and Jim are compared to those of the Magi. The Magi were the three wise men who brought gifts to the newborn Jesus. Casper, Melchior, and Balthazar traveled from Persia to Bethlehem at great risk to themselves to give their gifts to the newborn. This showed their love and reverence for the newborn.

Likewise, Jim and Della took risks when they sold the most precious possessions they had in order to show their love for each other. In fact, the writer describes them as the wisest of all those who give and receive gifts as they gave up the only priced possessions they had. They are fit to be described as the Magi.

2) Write on the appropriateness of the title.

Answers:

- + The gift of the Magi was an offering to the Lord.
- + It was given out of love and affection.
- + The writer points out that the couple is greater than the Magi because their gifts cannot be exchanged unlike those of the Magi.

Paragraph: The writer gives the title to suggest that the story is one of love and affection. The writer points out that the gifts of even ordinary people like Della and Jim can be greater than those of the Magi who were kings and had a lot of wealth. Finally, when they are not able to collect enough money for the gifts, both of them sell the most precious things they had with them – Jim sells his gold watch which belonged to his father and grandfather before him. Della sells her long, beautiful, rippling hair.

The most important point is that, unlike the gifts of the Magi which could be exchanged in case of duplication, the gifts of Della and Jim cannot be exchanged at all. It would be a long time before they used their gifts.

3) Question 3. Imagine that you were Della and write on the conflict you went through before you sacrificed your hair.

Answers:

- + I desperately wanted to give a gift to Jim for Christmas.
- + I had very little money, Jim doesn't earn much, and I try very hard to save whatever little I can by bargaining with all the sellers I have to deal with.
- + I always knew that my long, beautiful hair was something even Jim was proud of.
- + When I looked at myself in the mirror, I realized I could earn a little money by selling my hair. Anyway, the hair would grow back.
- + When I finally got ready to step out of the house to sell my hair, I had second thoughts. I did not want to lose something so beautiful. But I had to do it. There was no other way to get money. And I had to present a gift to Jim for Christmas.

Chapter - 4: Louis Pasteur, Conqueror of Disease

— By E.H. Carter

(Source: Pioneers of the Modern World)

Comprehension Questions

I. Answer briefly the following questions.

- 1) “Louis Pasteur was not a soldier, but he was a fighter.” What does the statement mean?

Answer:

Though Louis Pasteur did not join the army and become a soldier, he was a fighter because he fought various kinds of diseases through his discoveries about bacteria.

- 2) What are bacteria?

Answer:

Bacteria are vegetable organisms – little rod shaped plants which exist in the air, water and soil, and in the bodies of animals and plants; some but not all are the causes of diseases; some convert matter into food for plants.

- 3) As a scientist, how was Louis Pasteur unique ?

Answer:

Louis Pasteur not only made some exciting discoveries about germs but he was also able to use his discoveries in very practical ways. He could help many people running various industries in France.

- 4) How did Pasteur try to solve difficult problems?

Answer:

Pasteur used to sit for hours, quite silent and motionless, thinking hard about the difficult problems.

- 5) How would Pasteur react whenever he solved a problem?

What does this reveal about him as a person?

Answers:

When he thought of a solution, his kind, a tired looking face would brighten with pleasure and excitement, and he would rush round to tell his discovery to his wife and to others who were helping him.

This shows that Pasteur was sincere about solving problems and was also very simple and child-like in sharing his discoveries with others.

6) What discoveries did Pasteur make about yeast?

Answer:

Yeast is used to making the beer foam. Pasteur discovered that yeast was alive, made up of tiny living cells. When these cells were healthy, the yeast acted well, but if they were diseased, the yeast and the beer went wrong.

7) What does 'spontaneous generation' mean?

Answer:

Some scientists believed in 'spontaneous generation', i.e., they believed that germs had no parents but just occurred by themselves.

8) Did Pasteur believe in Spontaneous generation? If not, what did he believe in?

Answer:

Pasteur and some scientists like him believed that germs were carried in the air and might infect other things that came in contact with them.

9) In the statement, "Pasteur proved that he was right" (Para 9), What did he prove?

Answer:

Pasteur proved that germs were carried in the air and might infect other things that came in contact with them.

10) In the second soup experiment (para 10) which soup was the worst, which was the best and which one was better?

Answer:

In the second soup experiment, the bottles opened in the hotel bedroom were full of soup which had gone completely mouldy due to the presence of many germs; the bottles opened in the field were mouldy, but not quite so bad; those opened on the mountain had no germs in them at all. The last batch was the best, the first one was worst, and the second one better than the first one.

11) What is Pasteurization?

Answer:

Pasteurization is the process of heating the wine or milk of any other liquid to a temperature of 50 to 60 degrees centigrade to make the germs harmless. Pasteurized milk is milk which has been treated in this way and then sealed to prevent more germs from entering.

12) Louis Pasteur Conqueror Of Disease Questions And Answers Pdf Question 12. The writer says, "It would be impossible to imagine Pasteur experimenting with explosives or poisonous gas" (para 13). What quality of Pasteur is highlighted here?

Answer:

Pasteur's love for mankind and his compassionate nature are highlighted in the sentence. He had no love for plain achievement, money or fame.

13) On what study did Pasteur spend all his time and energy for three years?

Answer:

For three years, Pasteur spent all his time and energy in tracking down the cause of a disease which had ruined the silkworm industry.

14) How is vaccination different from inoculation?

Answer:

Introducing live organisms into the body to generate immunity is vaccination (for viral diseases like small pox, rubella, chicken-pox, measles, tuberculosis) whereas introduction of weak or dead organisms into the body to produce immunity is called inoculation (for bacterial diseases like typhoid, diphtheria and cholera).

15) What made Pasteur believe that a cow could not have anthrax twice?

Answer:

When Pasteur was trying to discover a cure for the terrible disease called 'Anthrax', he found out, first of all, that a cow could not have Anthrax twice.

16) What made many scientists angry? (para 16)

Answer:

Pasteur began to wonder whether it would not be possible to make a cow and even a man just a little ill with Anthrax so that they might not get it again. He thought that this could be done by giving the cows or sheep very weak old germs to make them safe or immune for the future. This idea of giving animals germs made many scientists angry.

17) What is rabies?

Answer:

Rabies is a dangerous disease of dogs and other mammals, caused by a virus that can be transmitted through the saliva to humans, causing madness and convulsions.

18) How was Pasteur a better scientist than Jenner?

Answer:

Although Dr. Jenner had already discovered how to vaccinate against smallpox, he did not really understand about bacteria. Pasteur after giving his life to this study was able to prove the value of inoculation and to find out ways of varying it for different diseases.

19) How was the very low death rate among the troops during the First World War a great tribute to Pasteur's work?

Answer:

During the First World War 1 (1914-1918), the troops going abroad were » inoculated against such diseases as typhoid and enteric fever, and the very low death-rate from this illness among v the troops, even in unhealthy places, was a great tribute to Pasteur's work.

20) At the opening ceremony of Pasteur Institute in Paris, Pasteur talked about two opposing laws.

Which are the two laws?

Which one did he favor?

Answers:

One law was a law of blood and death, opening out each day new methods of destruction, forcing nations to be always ready for the battle; l the second law was a law of peace, work, and health, whose only aim is to deliver f man from the disasters which surrounded l him. The first one seeks violent conquests, j the other relief of mankind.

Pasteur favored the second law l of peace, work, and health because he was sure that science in obeying the law of humanity, will always labor to enlarge the frontiers of life.

21) What was his message to young students on the occasion of his 70th birthday celebration?

Answer:

His message was: "First ask yourselves, 'What have I done for my education?' Then as you advance in life, What have I done for my country?' so that someday that supreme happiness may come to you, the consciousness of having contributed in some measure to the progress and welfare of humanity."

22) What is the supreme happiness he talks about?

Answer:

He says supreme happiness is the result of the consciousness of having contributed in some measure to the progress and welfare of humanity.

23) Here are Louis Pasteur's thoughts at various points in the lesson.

Read the paragraphs mentioned against each and explain how he came to each conclusion.

a. I am certain that yeast is alive, made up of tiny living cells (para 7) _____

Answer:

While helping the brewer, Pasteur learned many things about yeast. He observed that yeast was alive, made up of tiny living cells. When these cells were healthy, the yeast acted well, but if they were diseased, the yeast and the beer went wrong.

b. Germs are carried in the air and may _____ infect other things that came in contact _____ with them, (para 8, 9)

Answer:

As Director of Scientific Studies at a famous college in Paris, Pasteur was thinking about decay and yeast and germs. He believed that germs were carried in the air and infected other things that came in contact with them. He proved this point by pulling out the neck of soup bottles so that there was a big bend in the middle. The soup in the bottle never went bad because there were no parent germs in the soup and no germs could reach it because of the bend in the long tube. It was only when a little soup was split down the tube that germs entered it with dust and infected it.

c. Pure air is different from stale air (para 10) _____

Answer:

Pasteur filled some bottles with soup. He took some into a little hotel bedroom where the air was hardly ever changed, broke their necks off so that the air could enter freely, and after a few minutes sealed them up again. He then took some bottles into a field nearby and did the same with them. Finally, he opened some on the top of a high mountain and again sealed them up. When they were examined, the bottles opened in the hotel bedroom were full of soup which had gone completely moldy; the bottles opened in the field were moldy, but, not quite so bad; those opened on the mountain had no germs in them at all.

d. Pasteurization makes the germs harmless, (para 12) _____

Answer:

Pasteur showed that by heating the wine or milk or whatever it might be to a temperature of 50 or 60 degrees centigrade, the germs were made harmless.

II. Close Study:

Read the following extracts carefully. Discuss in pairs and then write the answers to the questions given below them

1) 'Do germs form from other germs, or do they just come of themselves?'

What did people like Pasteur actually believe about germs?

Answer:

People like Pasteur believed that germs were carried in the air and might infect other things that came in contact with them.

b) Which of the two was called 'spontaneous generation'?

Answer:

Scientists other than Pasteur believed in 'spontaneous generation', i.e., they believed that germs had no parents but just occurred by themselves.

c) How did Pasteur prove that he was right?

Answer:

Pasteur proved that he was right by conducting an experiment in which the neck of a bottle with the soup was extended to stop germs from entering. Only when the soup was poured into this bend, it came in contact with germs from dust and got infected.

2) 'If you can cure animals, you can cure my son'.

What had Pasteur cured the animals off?

Answer:

Pasteur had cured the animals of the terrible disease of Anthrax.

b) What was wrong with the 'son' referred to?

Answer:

The boy was covered with bites from a mad dog and was sure to die.

c) Did Pasteur cure the boy? How?

Answer:

Pasteur inoculated the boy with some weak rabies germs and the boy recovered.

III. Paragraph Writing:

Discuss in pairs/groups of 4 each, the answers to the following questions. Individually, note down the important points for each question and then develop the points into one paragraph answers:

- 1) What was troubling the French wine-growers? How did Pasteur solve their problem? What is the name of the process which was the solution to the wine-growers?

Answer:

- ✚ French wine-growers troubled by a germ.
- ✚ Pasteur showed how to render these germs harmless.
- ✚ This process was called 'Pasteurization'.

Paragraph: Some French wine growers were troubled by a germ which had turned their wine sour. Pasteur showed that by heating the wine to a temperature of 50 or 60 degrees centigrade, the germs were made harmless. This process was called 'Pasteurization'.

- 2) How did Pasteur develop the idea of immunity?

Answer:

- ✚ Pasteur busy in discovering cure of Anthrax.
- ✚ He found that a cow could not get it twice.
- ✚ He thought of giving weak old germs to make beings safe from Anthrax.

Paragraph: Pasteur was trying to discover a cure for the terrible disease called Anthrax, which men sometimes get from infected shaving brushes, and which was attacking cows and sheep in France and killing them off very quickly. He found out first of all that a cow could not have anthrax twice. Then he began to wonder whether it would not be possible to make a cow and even a man just a little ill with anthrax so that they might not get it again. Perhaps this could be done by giving the cows or sheep very weak old germs to make them safe or 'immune' for the future.

- 3) What human qualities of Pasteur do you admire?

Answer:

- ✚ All of Pasteur's work was meant to help human beings.
- ✚ He was genuinely interested in 'others' problems.
- ✚ He was child-like and simple by nature.

Paragraph: Louis Pasteur was what we should call an 'all round' scientist. All the research which he did in his laboratories was meant to help his fellow human beings. It would be

impossible to imagine Pasteur experimenting with explosives or poison gas. Pasteur was genuinely interested in solving the problems of others. He would ponder for a long time, and when finally he found a solution, he would run to convey his idea to the others. Pasteur was child-like and very simple by nature. When there was a storm of applause in the big medical Congress in London, he looked around thinking that the cheers must be for some royal person and not himself at all.

4) “All the research which he did in his laboratories was meant to help his fellow human beings”.

Elucidate.

Answer:

- ✚ Pasteur discovered many things about germs and also used that knowledge well. ‘
- ✚ He worked hard in his laboratories to help people in specific problems.
- ✚ He discovered ‘inoculation’.

Paragraph: Pasteur not only made some exciting discoveries about germs but he was also able to use his discoveries in very practical ways. He worked hard in his laboratory with test tubes and all kinds of experiments, but nearly all the time he was working to help people who were suffering in some special way from the disease. Among the people whom Pasteur was able to help were brewers, breeders of silk works, and cowkeepers, all of whom were trying to carry on important industries in France. He discovered ‘inoculation’ which provided immunity to people and animals against anthrax and also the dreaded disease, rabies.

5) What would have been the fate of humankind if Louis Pasteur had not discovered a vaccine against rabies?

Answer:

- ✚ Rabies is a dangerous disease.
- ✚ Many people used to die of rabies.
- ✚ Pasteur inoculated an infected boy.

Paragraph: Rabies is a dangerous disease of dogs and other mammals, caused by a virus that can be transmitted through the saliva to humans, causing madness and convulsions. Many people used to die of rabies. Many others used to suffer from bites caused by a mad dog. Pasteur inoculated an infected boy with some weak rabies germs and the boy recovered. This turned the fate of rabies-infected people.

Chapter - 5: What Is Moral Action?

— By M.K. Gandhi

Comprehension Questions

I. Answer briefly the following questions.

1) In paragraph one, Gandhiji says that our conventional behaviour is :

- a. Immoral
- b. moral
- c. neither moral nor immoral
- d. necessary
- e. unnecessary

Answer:

(c) neither moral nor immoral.

2) What is a non-moral action?

Answer:

Action which does not necessarily involve morality, but is born of prevailing conventions.

3) What is the difference between a mechanical act and an intentional act?

Answer:

If the action is done mechanically and does not spring from our own will, there is no moral content in the act. It is a mechanical act. Such action would be moral if we think it proper to act like a machine and do so since in doing so, we use our discrimination.

4) Give an example each for conventional behaviour and a moral act.

Answer:

Greeting everyone in the morning is conventional behaviour. It becomes a moral act when it is done with the intention of brightening up the lives of those people.

5) The first Paragraph discusses what is not a moral action. The second paragraph gives one important criterion to decide what constitutes a moral action. What is that criterion?

Answer:

A moral act must spring from our own will, from the use of our discrimination. This is the criterion.

6) When can the messenger's act become a moral action?

Answer:

When the messenger, instead of mechanically delivering the order, does it because it is his duty to do so, it becomes a moral action.

7) When, according to Gandhi, can we regard ourselves to have stepped on to the moral road?

Answer:

When we all care only for what our conscience says, then alone can we be regarded to have stepped onto the moral road.

8) What is the belief that Gandhi talks of in paragraph 2?

Answer:

Gandhiji says that we cannot be truly moral if we do not believe and experience the belief that God within us, the God of all, is the ever-present witness to all our acts.

9) All good actions need not be moral acts. When does good action become a moral act? (paragraph 3). Give an example

Answer:

Feeding poor people is an example of a good action. It is a moral act when the person, out of pity for the poor, feeds them.

10) In the example of feeding the poor, whose action is moral action?

Answer:

When a man, out of pity for the poor, feeds them, it is a moral act. When he does the same act with the motive of earning prestige, the action is no longer moral.

11) The result of our action determines whether our action is moral or non-moral (say whether the statement is True or False)

Answer:

False

12) Why does Gandhi say that Alexander's conquests cannot be called moral actions?

Answer:

Alexander's conquests cannot be called moral actions because the intention behind all of them was only power and renown.

13) In each paragraph, Gandhiji adds one criterion to consider an action moral. What criterion is added in paragraph 4?

Answer:

Gandhiji says that an action is moral if it is done voluntarily and without compulsion or fear.

14) When does simple living become moral?

Answer:

Simple living becomes moral when the person, although wealthy, thinks of all the want and misery in the world about him and feels that he ought to live a plain, simple life and not one of ease and luxury.

15) When does an employee's action of paying higher salaries to his employees remain non-moral?

Answer:

When the employer sympathizes with his employees or pays them higher wages lest they leave him, his action remains non-moral.

16) When Gandhiji quotes Shakespeare (in paragraph 5), what argument does he want to strengthen?

Answer:

When he quotes Shakespeare, Gandhiji wants to emphasize the point that any action, even one of showing love, done with a profit motive, ceases to be a moral action. Honesty should be resorted to, not because it dies the best policy of all, but because it is the right policy.

17) Gandhiji mentions the name of Henry Clay as an example of moral/ non-moral action. (Choose the right answer)

Answer:

Non-moral action.

18) What qualities of David Webster does Gandhiji mention?

Answer:

David Webster had great intellect and a wonderful sense of the heroic and the sublime.

19) What is the single mean act of Webster mentioned in paragraph 6?

Answer:

He once sold his intellectual' integrity for a price.

20) Why is it difficult to judge the morality of a man's action?

Answer:

It is difficult to judge the morality of a man's action because we cannot penetrate the depths of his mind.

21) What arguments does Gandhiji give to justify that a moral act should be free from fear and compulsion?

Answer:

He says that there is no morality in a person's act if he rises early out of the fear that, if he is late for his office, he may lose his situation. Similarly, there is no morality in his living a simple and unpretentious life if he has not the means to live otherwise.

22) To sum up, an action becomes moral when an action: (Complete the following)

Answer:

- ✚ springs from one's will (paragraph 2)
- ✚ is done with the intention to do good (from paragraph 3)
- ✚ is done without compulsion or fear (from paragraph 4)
- ✚ has no self-interest behind it (from par'1 u
- ✚ is not done with expectations of benefit in life after death (paragraph 6)
- ✚ Answer:
- ✚ is not done with expectations of benefit in life after death.

II. Close Study:

Read the following extracts carefully. Discuss in pairs and then write the answers to the questions given below them.

1) The great Saint Theresa wished to have a torch in her right hand and a vessel of water in her left so that with the one she might burn the glories of heaven and with the other extinguish the fires of hell, and men might learn to serve God from love alone without fear of hell and without temptation of heavenly bliss.

Why did Saint Theresa hold a torch in her right hand?

Answer:

She desired to burn the glories of heaven with the torch.

b. What does 'a vessel of water' signify?

Answer:

She desired to extinguish the fires of hell with the vessel of water.

c. What was her message to humanity?

Answer:

She wanted people to learn to serve God from love along without fear of hell and without the temptation of heavenly bliss.

- 2) Wherever he went (in the course of his conquests), he took the Greek language and Greek culture, arts and manners, and today we enjoy the benefits of Greek civilization. It was all right that he was termed “great”, but moral he cannot be called.

Who does ‘he’ refer to?

Answer:

‘he’ refers the Greek Emperor, Alexander, the Great.

b. What is his contribution to mankind?

Answer:

He took the Greek language and Greek culture, arts and manners to different parts of the world, thereby enabling all of them to enjoy the benefits of Greek civilization.

c. Why doesn’t Gandhi consider him moral?

Answer:

Though he went to different parts of the world, the intention behind Alexander’s action was only conquest and renown.

III. Paragraph Writing:

Discuss in pairs/groups of four each the answers to the following questions. Individually note down the important points for each question and then develop the points into a one-paragraph answer.

- 1) Write on Mahatma Gandhi’s comments on action prompted by the motive of happiness in another world.

Answer:

- ✚ Gandhiji says that action done for considerations of comfort and personal happiness in another world is non-moral.
- ✚ St. Francis Xavier prayed passionately because it was man’s duty to pray.
- ✚ St. Theresa kept a torch and a vessel of water so that man learns to serve God without any fear or temptations.
- ✚ It is difficult to judge the morality of man’s action.

Paragraph: Gandhiji says that an action done for considerations of comfort and personal happiness in another world is non-moral. That action is moral which is done only for the sake of doing good. St. Francis Xavier prayed passionately that his mind might always remain pure. For him, the devotion of God was not for enjoying a higher seat after death. He prayed because it was man's duty to pray.

St. Theresa wished to have a torch in her right hand and a vessel might burn the glories of heaven and with the other extinguish the fires of hell, and men might learn to serve God from love along without fear of hell and without the temptation of heavenly bliss. Commenting upon great men who have sacrificed their values for their ambitions, Gandhiji says that with one mean act, they have wiped out all their good deeds. This just shows how difficult it is to judge the morality of man's action because we cannot penetrate the depths of his mind.

2) Why does Gandhi say that moral action should be done without compulsion?

Answer:

- ✚ A moral act should be free from fear and compulsion.
- ✚ Even rising early out of fear of losing situation will render it non-moral.
- ✚ Similarly living a simple life because one doesn't have the means to live otherwise is not a moral act.
- ✚ An employer sympathizing with employees or paying them higher wages for fear that they would leave him is not performing a moral act.

Paragraph: Gandhiji says that a moral act should be free from fear and compulsion. He says that there is no morality whatsoever in a person's act if he rises early out of the fear that, if he is late to his office, he may lose his situation. Similarly, there is no morality in his living a simple and unpretentious life if he has not the means to live Otherwise.

Plain, simple living would be moral if, though wealthy, the person thinks of all the want and misery in the world about him – and feels that he ought to live a plain, simple life and not one of east and luxury.

Likewise, it is only selfish and not moral, of an employer to sympathize with his employees or pay them higher wages lest they leave him. It would be moral if the employer wished well of them and treated them kindly realizing how he owed his prosperity to them.

Chapter - 6: The Eyes are not Here

— By Ruskin Bond

Comprehension Questions

I. Answer briefly the following questions.

- 1) The narrator guessed that the couple who saw the girl off at Rohana was probably her parents because of
- they were middle-aged
 - they seemed very anxious
 - they accompanied the girl to the railway station.
 - they gave detailed instructions about the care she had to take.

Answer:

(d) they gave detailed instructions about the care she had to take.

- 2) Why did the narrator feel that he would never be able to discover something about the girl's looks?

Answer:

He was blind and he did not want to ask any question that would reveal his blindness. Besides, the girl was going away.

- 3) The narrator was born completely blind. (Say True/False)

Answer:

False

- 4) What did the narrator infer when the girl was startled by his voice?

Answer:

The narrator inferred that like all people with good eyesight, even she had failed to see what was right in front of her.

- 5) The girl told the narrator that her aunt was meeting her at Saharanpur. She said this probably because,

- She wanted to introduce her aunt to the narrator.
- She wanted to convey a message that he couldn't take advantage of her thinking that she was alone.
- It was a casual remark.

Answer:

(b) She wanted to convey a message that he couldn't take advantage of her thinking that she was alone.

6) How could the narrator, being blind, describe Mussoorie?

Answer:

Since he was not born blind, probably he had seen Mussoorie when he had eyesight.

7) With what intention did the narrator remark that the girl had an interesting face?

Answer:

He wanted to please her, and also pretend to be normal-sighted.

8) Hiding his blindness was a for the narrator, (challenge/game/child's play). Choose the correct answer.

Answer:

(b) game.

9) The new fellow-traveler had made out that the girl was blind. (Say True/False.)

Answer:

True

10) The story ends with a revelation. What is the revelation?

Answer:

The narrator had thought he was playing a game and trying to fool a normal-sighted person. He came to know that he was actually trying to fool a person blind like him. He also realized that even she had played a similar game with him, hiding her blindness.

11) The narrator and the girl reveal something about themselves through their words and actions. The adjectives listed in the box below describe the narrator and the girl. Put each word either under the narrator or the girl (Note: some qualities may be common to both).
clever, smart, humorous, suspicious, sentimental, curious, emotional, romantic, careful, intuitive, pretentious, confident, guilty, inquisitive.

Answer:

The Narrator

Clever, humorous

sentimental,

curious,

emotional,
romantic, careful,
pretentious, guilty,
inquisitive.

The Girl

Clever, humorous
suspicious
careful, intuitive
confident.

II. Close Study:

Read the following extracts carefully, Discuss in pairs and then write the answers to the questions given below them.

1) “You may break, You may shatter the vase if you will, but the scent of the roses will linger there still....”

What is the figure of speech used in the passage above?

Answer: metaphor

b. What is the vase compared to?

Answer: a person

c. What does the shattering of the vase refer to?

Answer: a person's going away

d. What does 'the scent of the roses' refer to?

Answer: their memories.

2) “Once again, I had a game to play, a new fellow traveler”.

What kind of the game does the speaker play with his fellow, travelers?

Answer:

A game through which he tries to fool the other person into thinking that he is normal-sighted.

b. What do you understand from this about his attitude?

Answer:

He resents his blindness and also thinks that normal-sighted people are over-confident about their powers of observation.

c. Who had out-witted whom, in the game already played by the narrator?

Answer:

The girl had outwitted the narrator.

III. Paragraph Writing:

Discuss in pairs /groups of 4 each and answer the following questions. Individually note down the important points and then develop the points into one – paragraph answers.

1) Give instances to show that the narrator tried his best to impress that he was normal sighted during his encounter with the girl.

Answer:

- + He starts the conversation with the girl.
- + He says that even he didn't see her but heard her.
- + He vividly describes Mussoorie in October.
- + He sits in front of the window and pretends to see outside, and makes a general comment about trees.
- + He makes a non-committal remark about her face.

Paragraph: Initiating the conversation and hoping to keep her from realizing that he was blind, he described the scenery from his memories. He also asked the girl a question, and she told him to look out the window for himself. To continue the ruse, the narrator told the girl that she had an interesting face since he did not actually know how she looked.

2) Everyone thinks, he could out-wit anyone but sometimes, he himself is out-witted by others. Substantiate this with reference to the story.

Answer:

- + The narrator plays this game of pretense with strangers.
- + He never talks about his blindness and takes it for granted that the others are normal-sighted.
- + Throughout the encounter, he is bothered about what he should say and hence doesn't pay much attention to what the other person says.

Paragraph: After listening to the parent's conversation with the daughter, the narrator could not distinguish any unusual advice or information that led him to believe the girl had any handicap herself. The narrator fooled himself. Apparently, he also misled the girl because she did not realize that her fellow traveler was blind either.

3) The story ends with the new fellow- traveler telling the narrator that the girl was completely blind. What do you think, would be the feelings and thoughts of the narrator after knowing the truth?

Answer:

- + Narrator is still thinking about the girl who was left.
- + When the new traveler comes into the compartment, the narrator is getting ready for another round of his favorite game.
- + The surprising remark by the traveler would surely shock the narrator, and ultimately make him feel ashamed about himself.

Paragraph: Both the readers and the narrator ultimately learn a very valuable lesson about the influence of initial assumptions on the ways we perceive (or fail to perceive) the world and other persons.

Chapter - 7: The Girl Who Was Anne Frank

— By Louis De Jong

Comprehension Questions

I. Answer briefly the following questions.

1) Why does the Professor say, “I have read Anne Frank’s diary”?

Answer:

The professor said that he had read Anne Frank’s diary when an argumentative young student asked him how he knew that the human race was worth saving.

2) What does his statement imply?

Answer:

His statement implies that every human race was worth saving as all races were precious.

3) What was Anne’s father?

Answer:

Anne’s father, Otto Frank was a banker, living in Germany.

4) Give any one example to prove the popularity of Anne Frank’s Diary.

Answer:

Once Anne Frank’s diary was published by her father, numerous people sent small presents, some exquisite dolls were made for him by Japanese girls. On the birthdays of Anne and Margot flowers arrived anonymously.

5)

a) Name the members of Mr. Otto Frank’s family

Answer:

The family members of Mr. Otto Frank were his wife, Mrs. Frank, and his two daughters, Margot and Anne. His mother was alive but she had emigrated to Switzerland long before.

b) What impression did people have about Anne?

Answer:

Most people had the impression that Margot, Anne’s elder sister was more promising and Anne was not particularly a brilliant student.

6) Why did Otto Frank decide to migrate to Netherlands? Give two reasons.

Answer:

Otto Frank decided to migrate to Netherlands in the autumn of 1933, because Hitler began issuing anti-Jewish decrees one after another, and because Netherlands was hospitable enough for him to start a small firm.

7) Who was Mr. Van Daan?

Answer:

Mr. Van Daan was a fellow refugee whom Otto Frank took in as a partner of his firm.

8) What qualities of Mr. Frank did his staff admire?

Answer:

Mr. Frank's staff admired him for his warm personality. They admired his courage and the evident care he took to give his two girls a good education.

9) Paragraph 7 refers to a lucky fact. What was that lucky fact?

Answer:

The lucky fact was that the Franks lived in a town surrounded by friends and the girls led a happy life. This was lucky because the Frank family could only rarely afford a holiday and they did not even own a car.

10) What finally forced Frank to go into hiding?

Answer:

Early in July 1942, Margot Frank was called up for deportation but she did not go. This forced Frank to go into hiding.

11) Where did Otto Frank and others hide themselves in?

Answer:

Otto Frank prepared to hide in his own business office with his family members. So he secretly prepared a few derelict rooms on the upper floors called the 'Annexe'. His family and their friends the Van Daan family along with a Jewish dentist hid there.

12) In all, how many people managed to hide in the Annexe? Who were they?

Answer:

In all, eight people hid in the Annexe. They were Mr. Otto Frank, his wife, and his two daughters, the three members of the Van Daan family and a Jewish dentist.

13) What helped the hiding party to establish contact with the outside world?

Answer:

The hiding party had the link with the outside world only by the radio and the four courageous staff members of Otto Frank, two of whom were typists who brought them food, magazines, and books secretly.

14) What did Anne Frank record in her diary?

Answer:

Anne Frank recorded her life in the Annexe with all its inevitable tensions and quarrels. She created a wonderful and delicate record of adolescence with complete honesty of a young girls' thoughts and feelings.

15) How did Anne compare herself to a song-bird?

Answer:

Anne compared herself to a songbird whose wings have been brutally torn out and who is flying in utter darkness against the bars of its own cage.

16) What does Anne reveal about her mother in the diary?

Answer:

Anne reveals her grief because she feels that her mother does not understand her. These thoughts are penned in her diary.

17) How does Anne try to keep the diary a secret?

Answer:

Anne wanted to keep the diary a secret from everyone, so she used to hide them in her father's brief-case.

18) Pick out from paragraph 16 two examples of the inhuman treatment of the Jews by the Nazis.

Answer:

The Jews were carried in cattle-trucks to Auschwitz, the Nazi death camp in Southern Poland. The men and women were placed in separate camps and tortured so much that most of them died of exhaustion.

19) Why does the writer call Anne a courageous leader?

Answer:

The writer calls Anne a courageous leader because when there was nothing to eat, she used to boldly go to the kitchen at the Auschwitz Concentration Camp to ask for food. She used to advise her sister and others to never give in.

20) Paragraph 18 gives a vivid picture of Anne's last day in the concentration camp. Pick out all the details of her pathetic physical state.

Answer:

Anne and her sister were transported to Belsen, another camp between Berlina and Hamburg. She was old, hungry, her head shaved and her almost skeleton body dressed in the course, shapeless, striped garb of the Concentration Camp. She was pitifully weak, her body racked by typhoid fever.

21) When and where did Miep find Anne's diary?

Answer:

Miep found Anne's diary when she returned to Annexe, a week after the Frank family had been arrested.

22) The writer says that if Miep had read Anne's diary, she would have destroyed it. Why does the writer think so?

Answer:

Anne had written in a detailed manner about the help given by Miep and other people to her family at the risk of their own lives. If Miep had read the diary, she would have destroyed it for reasons of safety.

23) Why does Mr. Frank take many weeks to finish reading the diary?

Answer:

It took Mr. Frank many weeks to finish reading the diary as he used to break down after every few pages overcome by emotion and pain.

24) What became the mission of Mr. Frank's life?

Answer:

The care of his daughter's diary became the passion and mission of Mr. Frank's life.

25) How did Mr. Frank spend the money he got from the publishers?

Answer:

Mr. Frank spent all the money he got from the publishers as royalties on humanitarian causes which, he felt, would have been approved by Anne.

26) How did the German audiences respond, to the tragic play of Anne Frank?

Answer:

The German audiences responded to the tragic play of Anne Frank in silent remorse. People did not even go out during the interval and sat in their seats as if afraid of the lights outside and ashamed of facing each other.

27) How did “The Diary of Anne Frank” succeed where German administrators had failed?

Answer:

The post-war administrators had toiled for years to make people realize the senseless and criminal nature of the Nazi regime, but they had failed. The Diary of Anne Frank succeeded in doing what the administrators had failed to do.

28) Why did the people of Berlin choose her name for Anne Frank Home?

Answer:

The people of Berlin chose her name for Anne Frank home because she symbolized the spirit of racial and social tolerance.

II. Close Study

Read the following extracts carefully. Discuss in pairs and then write the answers to the questions given below them.

1) “I have read Anne Frank’s Diary”

Who is the speaker?

Answer:

The speaker is the professor.

To which question is this statement an answer?

Answer:

The statement is an answer to the question – how the professor knew that the human race was worth saving – posed by a student.

What does the speaker imply in this statement?

Answer:

The professor implies that every race is precious and therefore is worth saving.

2) “In spite of everything, I still believe that people are really good at heart”

Whose words are these?

Answer:

These are the words of Anne Frank.

b. What does ‘everything’ refers to?

Answer:

It refers to the atrocities committed by the Nazis on the Jews.

What quality of the speaker is revealed here?

Answer:

It talks about the quality of compassion, love, and forgiveness in Anne Frank towards the Germans.

III. Paragraph Writing

Discuss in groups of 4 each and answer the following questions. Individually note down the important points for each question and then develop the points into one paragraph answers.

1) How did Anne's Diary open the eyes of Germans to the viciousness of racial persecution?

Answer:

- + When Anne's diary was published, it became popular worldwide. /-'
- + It was made into a play by Francis Godrich and Albert Hackett. Won the Pulitzer Prize, and was played in 20 countries to two million people.
- + audiences received Anne's tragedy in a silence heavy with remorse. In Dusseldorf, people did not even go out during the interval.

Paragraph: After the war, it was estimated, of the 107,000 Jews deported from the Netherlands between 1942 and 1944, only 5,000 survived. An estimated 30,000 Jews remained in the Netherlands, with many people aided by the Dutch underground. Approximately two-thirds of this group survived the war. Anne's diary gave them an insight into a world of destruction from the viewpoint of a young person trapped in a vicious world. A word of hatred that should have worn out her spirit, but in fact, it did the opposite of Anne and she held on to her hope in mankind more strongly than ever. The Diary of Anne Frank succeeded in making Germans open their eyes to the viciousness of racial persecution.

2) From your study of this write-up, what do you understand about Anne Frank's mind and heart?

Answer:

- + Anne was a gregarious girl a found imprisonment very cruel.
- + But she had a positive mind and could create a friendly world for herself.
- + She was very articulate and sensitive to everything around her.
- + Different from the other two teenagers in the same house.

Paragraph: Anne continued to struggle with the thought as to how she could be a good person when there were so many obstacles in her world. She wrote eloquently about her confusion over her identity. Anne thought philosophically about the nature of war and humanity and about her role as a young Jewish girl in a challenging world. From her diary, it is clear that she had the potential to become an engaging, challenging, and sophisticated writer.

3) What glimpses of Nazi cruelty do you see in this write-up?

Answer:

- + Nazis were hateful towards Jews.
- + Jews had to follow many rules.
- + They were called up by the police without any reason and deported to concentration camps.
- + They were made to starve and die in the concentration camps. Members of families were separated, and children died of typhoid.

Paragraph: The Jews were transported in cattle trucks filled way beyond capacity. On arrival, the adults were usually taken directly to the gas chambers. Anne was 15 and escaped the gas chamber along with her mother and sister. But 'starvation, disease, and typhus killed them in the holocaust camps. Human dignity was stripped in these camps and every day was a struggle physically and emotionally. The Nazis had no compassion for women and children too. Women and children were kept in very pathetic conditions without proper food or attire. Thus the Nazis treated the Jews with utmost cruelty and barbarism.

Chapter - 8: The Pie and the Tart

— By Hugh Chesterman

Comprehension Questions

I. Answer briefly the following questions.

- 1) “If I stop walking, I shall freeze”, said Pierre. “I prefer to die sitting down”, said Jean. This shows.
- that it was extremely cold in Paris on that day
 - that Jean is quick-witted and reacts intelligently
 - their ability to laugh at and talk lightly about their miserable condition.

Answer:

(c) their ability to laugh at and talk lightly about their miserable condition.

- 2) Why was Pierre pinched? How did he defend himself before Judge Gaston?

Answer:

Pierre was arrested for begging. He defended himself before the judge saying that he begged because he wanted to live.

- 3) “I really don’t see the necessity”, said Judge Gaston. This remark is a reflection on ...
- the judge’s insensitivity
 - how people felt about vagabonds in those days
 - the judge’s sense of humor

Answer:

(a) the judge’s insensitivity

- 4) What, according to Pierre, is a sure sign of starvation?

Answer:

Squinting slightly is a sure sign of starvation.

- 5) Who opens the door of the cake- shop when Pierre knocks on it?

Answer:

M. Gaultier, the owner of the cake shop, opens the door.

- 6) Pick out the common response of Gaultier and Marion to the Vagabond’s begging.

Answer:

Both of them say, "Go away, I've got nothing for you." Gaultier says that his wife is away and he is busy, whereas Marion says that her husband is away and she is busy.

7) Choose from the box given below the phrases/adjectives that can be used to describe Gaultier. Marion and Pierre.

content with his lot, conceited, hypocritical, foolish A-stoutish, clever, has presence of mind, sensitive, comely, generous, kind, quick-witted, gullible, resourceful, pompous, excellent pastry cook.

Answer:

Gaultier: content with his lot, hypocritical, foolish, sensitive, pompous, excellent pastry cook.

Marion : conceited, stoutish, comely, gullible.

Pierre : clever, has presence of mind, quick-witted, resourceful.

8) "I can't very well be seen carrying an eel pie through the streets of Paris. Can I?" says Gaultier. This shows that he is

- a) Lazy
- b) wise
- c) too conscious and proud of his position

Answer:

(c) too conscious and proud of his position.

9) What details of the conversation between the baker and his wife help Jean in his planning?

Answer:

The baker tells his wife that he would instruct the messenger to kiss his wife's hand. This helps Jean in his planning.

10) Why does Jean ask Pierre to get the pie instead of taking it himself?

Answer:

Jean had already knocked once on the door and had already been seen by Marion.

11) How does the playwright bring out Pierre's nervousness when he presents himself as the messenger to carry the eel pie?

Answer:

Pierre mixes up the words and says, “Good morning lady. I have come from M. Pie, who sends me to fetch the Gaultier – I should say I have come from M. Gaultier, who sends me to fetch the pie – the eel pie.”

12) How was Marion going to identify Gaultier’s messenger?

Answer:

The messenger had to ask to kiss Marion’s hand.

13) Jean does not give the details of the conversation between the baker and his wife to Pierre, as

- a) it is not necessary
- b) Jean wants to play the boss :
- c) Jean wants to take advantage of the situation

Answer:

(c) Jean wants to take advantage of the situation

14) Pick out any one comparison that Pierre mentions while describing to Marion how he would carry the eel pie?

Answer:

Pierre gives many comparisons. One of them is ‘as a shepherd with his ewes.’

15) Why does Pierre think he was dreaming?

Answer:

Marion handed the pie to Pierre very easily and looking at it, in his extremely hungry state, Pierre thinks he has been dreaming.

16) Why do the vagabonds go back to the bakery after eating the pie?

Answer:

Pierre tells Jean that when he was waiting at M. Gaultier’s door, he had seen a cranberry tart which he would like to be theirs now. He tells Jean to go and ask Marion for it in the same way that Pierre got the pie.

17) What makes Pierre say that the eels “give themselves up to Gaultier”? What does it tell you about the baker?

Answer:

Pierre means that Gaultier is such a wonderful baker that even the eels wouldn't mind dying at his hands if they could only be used in his wonderful pies. Since Pierre mentions that even the tart looked very inviting, we conclude that Gaultier is an excellent baker.

18) What is the only one fault that Pierre finds with the eel pie?

Answer:

Pierre thinks the only fault with the pie was that there was only one pie and not two.

19) Who opens the door when Jean goes to get the tart?

Answer:

Marion opens the door.

20) Does Jean get the tart? What happens to him? Why?

Answer:

No. Jean does not get the tart. M. Gaultier runs out of the shop and starts cudgeling him. Gaultier thinks that it was Jean who had come to take the pie before.

21) Why did Jean lie to Pierre and send him to fetch the tart?

Answer:

Jean resented the beating he had got at M. Gaultier's hands, and wanted Pierre to experience the same since he too had eaten the pie with Jean.

22) What did Jean tell Pierre to convince him that Pierre should go to get the tart?

Answer:

Jean tells that Marion wanted the same messenger who took the pie to take the tart too. He also says that no matter how many times he kissed Marion's hand, she wouldn't budge an inch.

23) Give one example to show that Marion has a good sense of humour.

Answer:

Marion asks Gaultier to choose a good-looking messenger as her hand is not for everyone to kiss.

II. Close Study:

Read the following extracts carefully. Discuss in pairs and then write the answers to the questions given below them:

1) Pierre: He does not catch them. They give themselves up. No eel could resist the blandishments of such an artist as M. Gaultier.

What does 'them' refer to?

Answer:

The eels.

b) What does the above statement tell us about Gaultier?

Answer:

It tells us that Gaultier is such a wonderful baker that the eels do not mind dying if they could be included in one of his pies. They voluntarily die so that he could use them in his pie.

c) What prompts Pierre to give such a compliment to Gaultier?

Answer:

Pierre, along with Jean, has just finished eating the pie that Gaultier had baked. That wonder pie, on a starving stomach, prompts him to give such a compliment.

2) Gaultier: I can't very well be seen carrying an eel pie through the streets of Paris, can I? ...

Do you think you could bring it along after me?

Where is Gaultier supposed to carry the pie?

Answer:

Gaultier is supposed to carry the pie to the house of the Mayor of Paris.

b) What does the passage tell you about his character?

Answer:

It tells us that Gaultier is very conscious of his position and importance, and thinks too high of himself.

c) Who is he addressing?

Answer:

He is speaking to his wife, Marion.

III. Paragraph Writing.

Discuss in pairs/groups of 4 each the answers to the following questions. Individually, note down the points for each question and then develop the points into one-paragraph answers.

1) Jean and Pierre have a lot of similarities. But the dramatist ensures that in spite of their similarities, they are different enough to be individuals.

How are Jean and Pierre similar?

How are they different? (Answer these sub-questions in a paragraph each).

Answer:

- ✚ Jean and Pierre are both vagabonds.
- ✚ Both are shivering in the cold weather.
- ✚ Both have good sense of humour.
- ✚ Both are determined to get ' something to eat that day.
- ✚ They do not wallow in self-pity.

Paragraph: Jean and Pierre are the two vagabonds featured in this play. They both have many similarities, mostly in the situations that they are in. They both are poor and are beggars on the streets of Paris. They are dressed similarly in tattered clothes and are cold and hungry. , They both are positive despite their poverty and have a sense of humour. For instance when they share and eat the pie, they praise it in a humorous way and are only too happy to try getting the tart too.

But when it comes to their personalities they differ. Pierre is more energetic, cheerful, humorous and positive of the two of them. Pierre has a restless energy while Jean is more submissive, desolate and even a little sly at times. We see this when it comes to their attitude while battling with the cold weather or even with how they handle the angry Gaultier. Till the end of the play despite differences their humour sustains them and they remain friends.

2) The lines in italics given after the list of players are called "stage directions". You find such "stage directions" all through the play. What would happen to the play if these were missing?

Answer:

- ✚ Plays meant to be enacted.
- ✚ Stage directions help to stage the play effectively.
- ✚ Even young, inexperienced people can stage it.
- ✚ Director can change movements if he wants to.

Paragraph: Stage directions, the descriptive text, are instructions or are part of the script of a play. It tells the actors when to enter or exit from the stage, or to move or what they will speak in their lines. They also provide details about how the playwright has imagined the environment and atmosphere. They describe critical physical aspects of the characters and settings. Stage directions can also be critical in dictating the intended tempo and rhythm of the piece.

POETRY

Chapter - 1: To a Pair of Sarus Cranes

— By Manmohan Singh

Comprehension Questions

I. Answer briefly the following questions.

1) The time of the day suggested in the poem is

- (a) sunrise
- (b) sunset
- (c) either sunrise or sunset
- (d) not clear

Answer:

a) sunrise

2) The sun is described as the reluctant sun. It means that

- a. the sun was unwilling to rise.
- b. the male bird was impatient.
- c. it was the bird's feeling that the sun was reluctant to rise.
- d. the sun always takes more time to rise than to set.

Answer:

b) the sun was unwilling to rise.

3) In the first 4 lines, there is an exaggeration in the description. What is it?

What is the figure of speech used here?

Answer:

The male bird is shown as bending to pluck the sun out from the rim of the horizon. Certainly, the bird cannot touch the sun with its beak or even reach the horizon. The bent neck of the bird and the eager movements of the bird are shown thus.

The figure of speech is Hyperbole.

4) How was the majestic neck humbled by the hunter?.

Answer:

The neck of a Sarus crane is very long, graceful and beautiful. At a time when the bird was stretching its neck and trying to do something impossible like pulling the sun out of the rim

of the horizon, the bird was shot in the neck. When it fell down dead, the hunter, without paying any attention to the beauty that was lost through his action, casually picked up the bird 'hands and jaws', crumpled it like a piece of paper and threw it into his bag without a second look at it. In this manner, the majestic neck has humbled the hunter.

- 5) The expression 'picked up hands and jaws,' suggests,
- callousness of the hunters.
 - heartlessness of the hunters.
 - urgency of the hunters.
 - cruelty of the hunters

Answer:

(b) callousness of the hunters

- 6) _____ is compared to 'dirty linen' (complete the sentence using the correct option)
- the proud neck of the birds
 - the dead body of the bird
 - the hands and jaws of the bird.
 - the material of the bag,

Answer:

(b) the dead body of the bird

- 7) and sat to hatch/the bloodstained feathers/into a toddling chick'. This suggests,
- that the female bird was out of her senses after the death of the male bird.
 - the intense love of the female bird towards its male partner.
 - the foolish act of the female bird.
 - the desperate act of the female bird to bring the male bird back to life.

Answer:

(b) that the female bird was out of her senses after the death of the male bird.

- 8) How is the end of the female crane suggested in the poem?

Answer:

It is said that 'a wave of the sea she had never seen' came to her and carried her away. It cannot be the real sea because the cranes lived near the sea. It could be a wave of grief which the bird had never known as long as her partner was alive. She was always very happy, and the death of the male bird pushed her towards sadness. Grieving for the male

bird and sitting on his blood-stained feathers, the female bird forgot to eat or drink and thus, becoming very weak, met her end.

II. Close Study:

Read the following extract carefully. Discuss in pairs and then write the answers to the questions given below it.

1) A wave of the seas she had never seen/came to her from far away/ and carried her to him.

What does 'wave of the seas' refer to?

What hadn't the female bird seen before?

What figure of speech is used in the extract?

Answer:

A wave of grief.

The female bird hadn't known grief or sadness before.

Personification.

III. Paragraph Writing:

Discuss in pairs/groups of 4 each and answer the following questions. Individually note down the points for each question and then develop the points into one-paragraph answers.

1) How is the callousness of the bird killers brought out in the poem?

Answer:

- + Poem brings out a contrast between birds and hunter.
- + Male bird is 'necking'. The word can be interpreted in two different ways.
- + Hunter shoots down a bird and picking it up, throws it into a washing bag.
- + Birds are very graceful and beautiful but the hunter treats them carelessly
- + Hunter goes away but female bird stays there.

Paragraph: The callousness of the hunters is brought out in the way the poet describes killing of a male sarus bird. It was shot when the bird had dipped its beak in the water. It seemed like it was trying to pull the reluctant sun out of the water at the rim of the horizon. The hunters were not touched by the beauty of the bird. They picked up the dead bird by its hands and jaws and flung it into a course bag as if it were a piece of dirty linen and the bag a washing bag.

2) How does the poet bring out the agony and desperation of the female crane in the poem?

Answer:

- ✚ The female bird flies around crying when male bird is shot.
- ✚ It returns to the spot when the hunter goes away.
- ✚ It goes on expressing its sorrow to anyone who could understand.
- ✚ It sits on the feathers as if to hatch them, forgetting food and drink.
- ✚ It finally dies, grieving for its mate.

Paragraph: The cranes pair for life. Having seen its mate shot dead by the hunters and being taken away, the female sarus is heartbroken. The bird circled the sky with grace mourning over the disgraceful end of its partner. After the killers had left the place, the female bird returned to the death scene and kept flying around whining for its companions with short and long wails resembling the Morse Code. With her beak she kissed and bloodstained feathers of her mate which the wind had not yet carried away and sat down to hatch them in the hope she could bring him back to life. This shows the agony and the despair of the bird.

3) Pick out any two figures of speech used in the poem and explain how they add to the effectiveness of the poem.

Answer:

The first stanza of the poet contains a figure of speech – the hyperbole – which is used to highlight a particular point through exaggeration. The male Sarus crane is shown as if it is stretching its neck to pull out the sun from the rim of the horizon. It is shown to be engaged in an impossible act, and yet the very attempt to do it shows the courage of the crane. However, the bird was no match for the cunningness and heartlessness of man.

The second stanza contains the figure of speech 'simile' – "to lie like dirty linen". The proud, dignified bird was killed and thrown into the washing bag like dirty linen. This reveals the callousness and lack of aesthetic sense of the hunter. The beautiful, graceful bird was just a piece of meat for him.

4) To a Pair of Sarus Cranes Poem Summary in English

A hunter kills a male sarus crane for sport without realizing the impact it would have on the female sarus crane, he also does not realize what it can mean to the eco-system that they are a part of.

The female crane is distressed at the scene she witnesses, she gracefully flies around the scene in circles and croons over the disgraceful end of her partner.

The bird cries over the careless disregard and lack of dignity with which the dead bird is picked up by the callous hunters. She encircles the death scene making shrill cries over it.

The poet compares the shrill cries with the dots and pits of Morse code hinting at the keen ear required to understand the grief that is being expressed.

The female crane then pecks at a few feathers of the male crane and in a desperate attempt to bring the male crane back to life tries to hatch the feathers to a toddling chick.

Finally, a wave that the female crane had never seen before comes and sweeps her away to death and closer to the dead male crane.

And the poet says that the female sarus crane went beyond Hume's words and beyond the legends and fables of human love.

Chapter - 2: Abraham Lincoln's Letter to His Son's Teacher

— By Abraham Lincoln

Comprehension Questions

I. Answer briefly the following questions.

1) In the first line, 'he' refers to _____ and I refers to _____.

Answer:

'He' refers to Abraham Lincoln's son, and T refers to himself.

2) The first line, "He will have to learn" means that

- a. the son has the choice either to learn, or not to learn the values listed.
- b. the son has no choice.

Answer:

(b) the son has no choice.

3) all men are not just

all men are not true. These lines convey

- a. a one-sided view of life.
- b. the harsh reality of life.
- c. Lincoln's personal view.

Answer:

(b) the harsh reality of life.

4) The statement "for every scoundrel, there is a hero" means

- a. the number of scoundrels in this world is equal to the number of heroes.
- b. for every bad person in this world, there is a good person.
- c. in spite of all the wickedness in this world, there is enough goodness.

Answer:

(c) in spite of all the wickedness in this world, there is enough goodness.

5) Why is it important for a child to learn that the world is also filled with heroes, dedicated leaders and friends?

Answer:

If the child is not aware of the heroes, leaders and friends, he might think that the world has only scoundrels, selfish politicians and enemies and become dejected.

- 6) The first 7 lines emphasize
- the value of positivity
 - the negative aspects of life
 - both the positive and the negative sides of life,

Answer:

(c) both the positive and negative sides of life.

- 7) Pick out the line which says that hard earned money has greater value than easy money.

Answer:

That a dollar earned is of far more value than five found '.

- 8) What does the phrase 'learn to lose-' mean?

Answer:

Be sportive and accept defeat with a smile.

- 9) In what sense is it more honourable to fail than to cheat?

Answer:

It is better to admit that one doesn't know than to pretend to know everything.

- 10) Why doesn't the father want his son to follow the crowd?

How can this value be linked to having faith in oneself?

Answer:

- The crowd might be interested in doing something wrong. Hence the father doesn't want his son to follow it but he confident about his own purpose in life.
- People who usually develop bad habits or engage in crimes do so only because they want to impress others or be equal to others by hook or crook. The father doesn't want his son to live only to impress others.

- 11) What kind of a listener does the father want his son to be?

Answer:

The father wants his son to listen to all kinds of people but not believe everything he hears.

He wants his son to filter all that he hears on a screen of truth.

- 12) Is it possible to laugh when one is sad?

What value is the writer highlighting here?

Answer:

- a) Every event has both positive and negative sides to it. When one has the ability to look at both of them, it is possible to laugh when one is sad.
- b) The writer is highlighting the value of stoicism in life.

13) What does Lincoln mean when he says, 'too much sweetness'?

Answer:

Lincoln wants his son to be careful about people who speak very sweetly to him because he knows that only those people who want some favour from us are very sweet to us.

14) What does the poet-father mean by 'close his ears to a howling mob'?

Answer:

A mob can be very effective in influencing a person to be bad and wrong, no matter how determined he is to be good and correct. Hence the father wants his son to close his ears to a howling mob and have faith in his own good sense.

15) What is the ultimate teaching Lincoln recommends, and to what end?

Answer:

He wants his son's teacher to teach his son to have sublime faith in himself because only then the son will have sublime faith in mankind.

16) Lincoln does not want his son 'to put a price tag on his soul'. What does he mean by this?

Answer:

Lincoln wants his son to remain incorruptible throughout his life, and never compromise on values.

17) Why is it essential for someone to have "sublime faith in mankind"?

Answer:

When a person has 'sublime faith in mankind', the faith that even when a person is bad, he will be so only sometimes and not always, the faith that all men are not bad even if some are, then the mind is calm and optimistic. Such a peaceful mind will not provoke the person to violence or hatred or make him fearful. Such a mind will enable him to be courageous, loving, and patient with everyone.

18) **In the line, "This is a big order"**

What does 'this' refer to?

What does 'a big order' mean here?

Answer:

a) This' refers to all that the father wants the teacher to teach his son. The father's request is referred to here.

b) 'A big order' refers to the various values the father wants to be developed in his son.

19) When the father says, "This is a big order", it implies

a) that the father has no faith in the teachers or the school.

b) that the father has no faith in his son's ability to acquire these values.

c) that the task of teaching such values is too difficult for any teacher or school.

Answer:

(c) that the task of teaching such values is too difficult for any teacher or school.

20) There are a few other expressions which indicate that the task of inculcating such values is not easy for the teacher or the school. Pick out the expressions.

Answer:

'It will take time, I know; Tiy to give my son; The phrase 'if you can is repeated many times, indicating that the writer knows the difficulty of the task.

21) The poem has a long list of contrasting values.

a. E.g.: scoundrel × hero

b. selfish politician × dedicated leader.

Pick out the rest from the poem.

Answer:

enemy × friend;

dollar earned × five found;

learn to lose × enjoy winning;

wonder of books × eternal mystery

of birds in the sky;

honourable to fail × to cheat;

gentle × tough;

how to laugh × when he is sad;

sell his brawn and brain to the highest

bidders × never to put .a price-tag on his soul;

treat him gently × do not cuddle him;

courage to be impatient × patience to be brave;
sublime faith in himself × sublime faith in mankind;
a big order × see what you can do.

22) Identify the lines which highlight the following qualities or values:

a) to be positive and optimistic

Answer:

And take only the good that comes through how to laugh when he is sad
.....

b) to be able to accept failure and defeat

Answer:

Teach him to learn to lose And also to enjoy winning.

c) to be able to appreciate what is beyond human understanding

Answer:

'But also give him quiet time to ponder the eternal mystery of birds in the sky, bees in the sun, and the flowers on a green hillside.'

d) to have faith and belief in oneself

Answer:

Teach him to have faith in his own ideas, even if everyone tells him they are wrong
.....

e) not to tread the beaten track

Answer:

'Try to give my son the strength not to follow the crowd when everyone is getting on the bandwagon.....'

f) not being gullible

Answer:

Teach him to listen to all men but teach him also to filter all he hears on a screen of truth.'

g) to be able to discriminate the right from the wrong.

Answer:

Teach him to close his ears to a howling mob And to stand and fight if he thinks he's right.'

II. Close Study

Read the following extracts carefully. Discuss in pairs and then write the answers to the questions given below them.

1) Teach him, that for every enemy there is a friend.

It will take time, I know;

- a) What does the first line mean?
- b) What human virtue is highlighted here?
- c) What will take time?

Answer:

- a) The first line means that the world is not made up of only enemies but so many people who can be good friends.
- b) Positively of the mind.
- c) Understanding people and recognizing their goodness.

2) Only the test of fire makes fine steel.

- a) Who is this line meant for?
- b) Explain the literal meaning of the line.
- c) What human virtue is emphasized here?

Answer:

- a) It is meant for the son.
- b) Only when steel passes through fire, can it become strong.
- c) Courage to face adversities in life.

III. Paragraph writing:

Discuss in pairs/groups of 4 each, the answers to the following questions. Individually note down the important points for each question and then develop the points into one paragraph answers:

1) Teach him to listen to all men but teach him to filter all he hears on a screen of truth'. Bring out the different ideas conveyed in these lines.

Answer:

- + Show respect to everyone by listening to them without discrimination.
- + Never accept anything at face value.

- ✚ Ponder deeply about everything he hears and accepts something as the truth only after considering it properly.

Paragraph: The poet here says that it is important to listen to all men. However, he wants his son to give in to what they say, but learn to filter all that he has heard and found out what the truth is and follow it.

- 2) Do you agree with the poet when he says, 'Only the test of fire makes fine steel'. Give reasons to support your point of view.

Answer:

- ✚ The poet wants his son to pass through fire.
- ✚ He is sure that only the test of fire produces strong steel.
- ✚ The poet wants not the absence of fire but its presence so that his son emerges stronger.

Paragraph: The line refers to the way the poet wants his son to be trained in school. Literally, the line means that when steel is tempered with fire it gets harder. Similarly, if his son is put through rigorous training, he too could grow up to be tough as steel. The virtue that the poet is trying to uphold in this line is of discipline which moulds character. I personally think that discipline goes a long way in moulding character and imbibing values.

3) **Abraham Lincoln's Letter Poem Summary in English**

In this letter, Abraham Lincoln believed to have written to his son's teacher, he emphasises on the values that he would like his son to learn. He wants his son to learn that all men are not just but he also wants his teacher to teach him that for every bad person there is a good person available in the world.

He further wants his son's teacher to teach him the value of labour and hard work and he wants his son to learn that a dollar earned is of higher value than 5 dollars found without hard work.

He wants him to be away from jealousy and also learn the secret of quiet laughter. He wants his son to be taught that bullies are the easiest to please by saying yes to all their demands. He wants his son to be taught the wonder of books. He wants also that his son is taught the value of quiet time in which he can ponder over the mysteries of nature and also learn that it is far more honourable to fail than to cheat.

He wants his son to be taught to have faith in his own ideas and to be gentle with the gentle and tough with the tough.

He wants the teacher to give his son the strength not to follow the crowd and filter all that he hears with the filter of truth. He wants the teacher to teach his son that one can laugh when one is sad yet that there is no shame in tears.

He wants his son to be taught how to be wary of too much sweetness and keep cynical, negative people away. He further asks the teacher to teach his son to sell his skills and talents to the highest bidder but also ensure that he never trades his soul for a price tag.

He wants his son to be taught to fight for what he thinks is right and be brave and to have faith in himself and others.

He ends the letter with a gentle order that the above things be taught to his son who is, after all, such a fine boy.

Chapter - 3: The Temple and the Body (Vachana)

— By Basavana

Comprehension Questions

I. Answer briefly the following questions.

- 1) The lines 'The rich / will make a temple for Siva', implies that
- they want to please the Lord.
 - they can afford to build temples
 - they believe that this is how they can serve God
 - they believe that the temple is the only place to feel the presence of God.

Answer:

(c) they believe that this is how they can serve God.

- 2) Which of the following statements are true?
- the speaker is against building any structures for worshipping God
 - it's not possible for the speaker to build a temple.
 - it's only an excuse given by the speaker for not being able to build a temple.
 - the speaker believes that God is present within ourselves and not in any temple.

Answer:

(d) the speaker believes that God is present within ourselves and not in any temple.

- 3) What are the feelings of the speaker, suggested in the question, "what shall I, a poor man, do?"
- helplessness
 - doubt
 - humility
 - anger
 - pride
 - anguish.

Answer:

(f) anguish

- 4) The word 'Listen' in the last stanza is
- an order
 - an appeal
 - a request
 - an advice

Answer:

(d) an advice

- 5) The expression 'Things Standing', suggests
- any man-made temple
 - anybody who is standing
 - anything which is static
 - the human body

Answer:

(c) anything which is static.

- 6) There are two examples of paradox in the last two lines (A paradox is a statement containing opposite ideas)
- a) What opposite ideas are suggested in 'things standing shall fall'?

Answer:

'Things standing shall fall' can be interpreted in various ways. The poet laments his inability to build temples, hence the phrase can refer to temples which are subject to nature's fury and destruction over a period of time. It can also refer to pride and arrogance which can make a person stand erect in front of God when he should be bowing before Him. It may also mean that static objects that are moved by piety and devotion, are subject to destruction and decay while the heart that is filled with devotion is blessed and becomes immortal.

- b) What opposite ideas are suggested in 'the moving shall ever stay'?

Answer:

'The moving shall ever stay' – this phrase too can be interpreted in many ways. The 'moving', i.e., the human heart which is a 'moving temple' cannot be destroyed by nature's fury unlike a temple that can be damaged easily by nature, 'the moving' can also refer to humble

beings who are swayed by devotion and move according to God's will unlike the 'static' that stand erect against God's wishes and get destroyed.

These two phrases repeat the message of the line from the Bible:

"Be not like the mighty oak which can be filled, with a single stroke; Be like the humble reed which bends with the wind and stays."

7) What final message do the last two lines convey?

Answer:

The poet is consoling himself that the temple which he would never be able to construct, would any day be destroyed, whereas the 'moving temple' that he carries in his heart would be immortal and intact. The lines can also mean that the one who 'stands' in front of God without bowing down to Him, will surely 'fall' or be destroyed, whereas 'the moving', the one who bows down in front of Him and acts according to His wish, would stay ever. The poet finds consolation in his modest circumstances and his devotion to God.

II. Close Study

Read the following extract carefully. Discuss in pairs and then write the answers to the questions given below it.

My legs are pillars,
the body the shrine,
the head a cupola of gold.

1) How is the human body compared to a temple?

Answer:

The whole body is compared to a temple, with the legs being pillars, the body the shrine with the idol of God secure in the heart, and the head, a cupola of gold with serene thoughts protecting the God in the heart.

2) What is the figure of speech used here?

Answer:

The figure of speech used here is a metaphor.

3) Why is the speaker comparing the human body to a temple?

Answer:

The speaker wanted to construct a temple like the rich people do, and thereby please God, but he is very poor and cannot do so. Hence he decides to treat his own body as a temple

with the God secure in his heart. – He also realizes that the temple built of brick and stone can be damaged by nature one day, whereas the ‘moving temple’ in his heart can never be.

III. Paragraph Writing

Discuss in pairs/groups of four each and answer the following question. Note down the important points and then develop the points into a paragraph.

1) What ideas of spirituality emerged from the study of this well-known Vachana?

Answer:

- + Building temples for Siva is considered a good way to please the Lord.
- + However, everyone cannot build temples.
- + Temples built of stone and brick can be destroyed.
- + God is found not just in temples but also outside.
- + Carrying God in one’s own heart is the best way of worshipping Him.
- + This ‘moving temple’ cannot be destroyed at all.

Paragraph: In this poem, Basavanna tells us that a rich man can afford to build grand temples in honour of gods, but poor man can’t. However, with his devotion, i.e., with pure thoughts, actions and deeds, he can turn his body into a temple. He may offer his legs for pillars, his body for a shrine and his head for a cupola. A temple of faith is immortal as human beings live on generation after generation, but a temple of stone will perish sooner or later. With this analogy, the lyricist is telling us that faith in the heart is more important than cold stone structures dedicated to a God. To him true faith is more important than display of wealth by the rich who put up such structures.

2) Vachana Poem Summary in English

The poet desires to please God by building a temple for him but is a poor man, and hence cannot do so.

He wonders in anguish whether he will ever be able to please God.

He decides to treat his own body as a temple, with his legs for pillars, body for the shrine and the head for a cupola of gold.

He consoles himself saying that ‘things standing shall fall’, meaning that buildings will be destroyed by wind, rain and sunshine.

He is happy that 'the moving ever shall stay', meaning that he will be able to carry the 'temple' and his 'God' forever with himself, and so it will never be destroyed. It shall 'stay'. The poem or vachana was written by Basavanna at a time when people other than high caste people or Brahmins could not enter temples.

Prasanth Kumar Royal's

Chapter - 4: A Poison Tree

— By William Blake

Comprehension Questions

I. Answer briefly the following questions.

1) What happened when the speaker expressed his anger?

Answer:

The anger ended when the speaker expressed his anger.

2) What happened when the speaker suppressed his anger?

Answer:

When the speaker suppressed his anger, it only grew.

3) How are the results differ in the two instances?

Answer:

Expression of anger in the first instance relieves the person of all ill-feeling, whereas suppression of anger in the second instance poisons him all the more because it grows.

4) When the poet is thinking about his anger, the picture of a tree comes to his mind. Which word in the first stanza suggests a tree?

Answer:

'grow'. The pronoun, 'it' implies that the poet is talking about a tree. The line 'Till it bore an apple bright;' supports this answer.

5) The speaker helped his anger to grow. The second stanza mentions the different ways in which he helped his anger grow. What are the different ways?

Answer:

The speaker watered it in fears, night and morning with his tears and sunned it with smiles.

6) "Water'd it in fears" suggests that

- the speaker did not have the courage to express his anger
- the speaker was afraid of the consequences
- the speaker didn't want to displease his enemy

Answer:

(b) the speaker was afraid of the consequences.

7) The word 'tears' suggests that

- a. the speaker too suffered for suppressing his anger
- b. the enemy suffered
- c. the speaker had to go through a lot of anxiety

Answer:

(c) the speaker had to go through a lot of anxiety.

- 8) “sunned it with smiles” suggests that
- a. the speaker cunningly hid his anger with bright smiles
 - b. the speaker pretended that he was not angry
 - c. the speaker let his anger grow secretly

Answer:

(a) the speaker cunningly hid his anger with bright smiles.

- 9) Which line tells you that the speaker is a scheming and cunning friend?

Answer:

And I sunned it with smiles

And with soft deceitful wiles.

- 10) The second stanza continues the image (picture) of a tree suggested in the first stanza. Which words in the second stanza refer to a growing

Answer:

“Water’dHsunned it’.

- 11) The poet, ‘so far, has been talking about

- a) his suppressed anger
- b) a growing tree
- c) both

Answer:

his suppressed anger.

- 12) What kind of a tree and fruit (here apple) can grow when they are nurtured by fears, tears, hypocritical smiles and deceitful wiles?

Answer:

A poison tree with poisonous fruits.

- 13) The word ‘it’ occurs in all the four lines of the 3rd stanza. What does ‘it’ refer to in each line?

Answer:

'It' in the first line of the 3rd stanza refers to the speaker's suppressed anger. In the 2nd line, it refers to a poison tree, In the third and fourth lines, it refers to a bright poisonous apple.

14) "Apple" in the poem refers to

- a) the forbidden but tempting apple in the garden of Eden (in The Bible)
- b) the consequence of suppressing anger
- c) the fruit of his enmity

Answer:

(b) the consequence of suppressing anger.

15) The apple is 'bright' because

- a) it is intended to attract the foe
- b) it is intended to tempt the foe
- c) it is cunningly devised to hide the bitterness

Answer:

(c) it is cunningly devised to hide the bitterness.

16) Who "stole" into the speaker's garden?

Answer:

The enemy

17) The word "stole" means

- a) that the enemy stole the apple
- b) that the enemy entered the speaker's garden stealthily

Answer:

(b) that the enemy entered the speaker's garden stealthily.

18) What does the speaker see in the morning?

Answer:

The speaker sees his enemy dead under the apple tree in the morning.

19) Why, do you think, "dies" at the end? Is it only the enemy? Does the speaker also die? What kind of death ' does he die?

Answer:

The enemy is physically and truly dead. But the speaker also suffers a lot of guilt for having caused this death. Though he is alive physically, he is emotionally dead.

20) "A Poison Tree" could refer to

- a) the tree of hatred and enmity grew by the seed of suppressed anger
- b) the destructive effect of being hypocritical and deceitful
- c) the spiritual death of a person for nurturing base passions

Answer:

All of the above.

II. Close Study:

Read the following extracts carefully. Discuss in pairs and then write the answers to the questions given below them:

1) "And into my garden stole/when the night had veiled the pole".

Who stole into the garden?

Answer:

The speaker's enemy stole into the garden.

Why did he steal into the garden?

Answer:

He came stealthily to steal the apple from the speaker's apple tree.

Explain the phrase 'veiled the pole'.

Answer:

'Veil'd' means 'covers'. It can also mean 'deliberately hide in order to fool someone.'

2) And I sunned it with smiles And with soft deceitful wiles

What does the word "sunned" suggest?

Answer:

As long as the speaker smiles hypocritically, his anger with his foe continues to grow. Thus, his smiles are acting upon his anger like sunshine, helping it to grow.

Explain the phrase "deceitful wiles"

Answer:

'Deceitful' means 'deliberately done in order to fool someone'. The speaker pretends to be friendly with his enemy by behaving in a very sweet manner.

Why had the speaker "sunned" it?

Answer:

The speaker was afraid to express his anger with his enemy. Hence he pretended to be friendly and happy with him. This pretence only made his anger grow.

III. Paragraph Writing

Discuss, in pairs or groups of 4 each, the answers to the following questions. Note down the important points and then develop them into a paragraph.

1) How does the poet use the image of a tree to bring out the destructive effect of suppressed anger?

Answer:

- + The speaker waters his suppressed anger with fears and tears.
- + He 'suns' it with smiles and deceitful wiles.
- + The tree grows both day and night, and bears a bright apple.
- + When the foe eats the apple, he dies.

Paragraph: The speaker does not tell his friend that he is angry with him. As a result, his anger grows. His growing anger is traced through the growth of a tree. Just as a tree is watered and provided with sunlight for its growth so does the speaker nurture his anger with fears, tears, fake smiles and wicked tricks. The tree of anger bears an apple that shines bright like the apple in the garden of Eden. It attracts the friend and he steals it by night when the speaker was not looking. The result, the apple from the poisonous tree killed the friend. The speaker too dies spiritually for allowing anger to grow and for rejoicing in the death of his friend.

Chapter - 5: The Stolen Boat

— By William Wordsworth

Comprehension Questions

I. Answer briefly the following questions.

1) Who does 'her' in the first line refer to?

Answer:

The cool summer breeze.

2) Where was the boat moored?

Answer:

Inside a rocky cave, tied to a willow tree.

3) What does 'home' in line 3 refer to?

Answer:

The place where the boat was usually moored.

4) What does 'her' in line 4 refer to?

Answer:

The boat

5) Why does the poet use words like 'home' and 'her' while talking about the inanimate boat?

Answer:

The attraction of the boat to the boy is so much that it acquires a human presence in his mind.

6) What stealthy act does the boy commit?

Answer:

The boy takes away the boat without the permission of the owner of the boat.

7) What sound is captured in lines 6 and 7?

Answer:

Mountain-echoes of the sound of the oars splashing in the water.

8) What visual picture is created in lines 8 to 10?

Answer:

The picture is of small ripples caused in the water by the moving oars, and their fading away to leave only a long stretch of reflected moonlight in the water in the wake of the boat.

9) What does 'they' in line 10 refer to?

Answer:

The small ripples in the water.

10) How many peaks are mentioned in the poem? Which one is bigger?

Answer:

Two peaks are mentioned: The first one is a craggy ridge, the one the boy wanted to reach; the second one is a black and huge peak which looms suddenly in front of him.

11) What is the boat compared to in line 19 and 20?

Answer:

A swan gliding smoothly in the water.

The purpose of the comparison is

- a) to highlight the beauty and grace of the swan
- b) to highlight the beauty and grace of the boat
- c) to highlight the graceful movement of the boat

Answer:

to highlight the graceful movement of the boat.

12) In the expression 'troubled pleasure' (line 6).

a) What pleasurable experience of the narrator does 'pleasure' refer to?

Answer:

Taking the boat away all by himself.

b) The narrator's pleasure is 'troubled' because

- a) his conscience pricks him on his stealthy act
- b) the pleasure is short-lived
- c) he is scared of his stealthy act being found out

Answer:

a) his conscience pricks him on his stealthy act-

13) Read carefully lines 21 to 26

Pick out the details of the peak that appears fearful to the boy

Answer:

Rising from behind the craggy ridge all of a sudden; Being black and huge in size; Went on growing in size till it towered between the boy and the stars; Seemed to be coming after the boy with a measured step.

c) The lines refer to the movement of the peak. Is it real or imagined by the boy?

Answer:

It is the imagination of the boy who is already feeling guilty about his act of stealing the boat.

In the boy's imagination, the movement is

- a) threatening and menacing
- b) lively and graceful
- c) friendly and inviting

Answer:

a) threatening and menacing.

14) In the phrase "trembling oars", who is trembling?

Answer:

The boy is trembling.

Name the figure of speech in this expression.

Answer:

The figure of speech used here is "Transferred Epithet".

The boy is trembling because of

- a) He is frightened by the 'approaching' peak
- b) Of his guilty conscience
- c) Of cold

Answer:

He is frightened by the 'approaching' peak.

15) The episode of the stolen boat ends with the boy leaving the boat back in its mooring place (line 32). The remaining lines of the poem (lines 33 to 44) deal with

- a) the lasting memory of the actual experience
- b) details not connected with the actual experience
- c) the mysterious shapes and images haunting him

Answer:

c) the mysterious shapes and images haunting him.

16) Wordsworth defined poetry as “emotion recollected in tranquility”. What dominant emotion of the boat experience is recollected by the poet?

Answer:

Fear caused by the sight of the huge, black peak.

17) Many days after the stolen boat experience, the narrator was haunted by a mysterious presence within him. Pick out details of this mysterious presence from lines 37 to 44.

Answer:

After the experience, there hung over the boy's thoughts darkness which can be called solitude or blank desertion. There were no familiar shapes or pleasant images of trees, sea or sky. There were just huge and mighty forms that do not live like living men. These forms moved slowly through his mind by day and troubled him in his dreams.

II. Close Study

Read the following extracts carefully. Discuss in pairs and then write the answers to questions given below them.

1) She was an elfin pinnacle

- a) What does 'she' refer to?
- b) What is the figure of speech used here?
- c) What does 'elfin' mean?
- d) What is the figure of speech used in 'elfin pinnacle'?
- e) What quality in the movement of the boat is highlighted in the comparison?

Answers:

- a) The little boat.
- b) Personification.
- c) Very small in size.
- d) Metaphor.
- e) The smooth, pleasant and light movement of the boat.

2) With trembling oars, I turned, And through the silent water stole my way Back to the covert of the willow tree.

- a) What is the figure of speech used in the first line?
- b) What made the boy tremble?

c) What does the boy want to do with the boat?

Answers:

a) Transferred Epithet.

b) The sudden presence of the huge, black peak which seemed to move with a measured step towards him.

c) The boy wanted to take the boat to a craggy ridge.

III. Paragraph Writing

Discuss in groups of 4 each the answers to the following questions. Note down the important points for each question and then develop the points into one paragraph answers.

1) Why did Wordsworth say that his moving the boat is an act of stealth? Why was he guilty of his act?

Answer:

Probably because the boy was very young, he was not allowed to row it on his own, or probably the owner of the boat did not like anyone touching his boat. Here the boy does not inform the owner or take his permission to use the boat. Hence Wordsworth says that the boy's moving of the boat is an act of stealth. It was an act of stealing and his joy and thrill of adventure were troubled by a sense of guilt.

2) Describe the effect that the spectacle of the peak had on the poet's mind.

Answer:

The poet wanted to take the boat near a craggy ridge, but the sudden appearance of the huge, black peak unnerved him. The more he rowed the boat, the bigger the peak seemed to become in front of him. Soon it seemed to move with a measured step like a living being towards the poet. This made the poet turn back towards the rocky cave.

3) To Wordsworth, nature was a living presence. Pick out any 5 details from the poem to support this.

Answer:

'One summer evening'; 'small circles glittering idly in the moon'; 'she was an elfin pinnace'; 'my boat went heaving through the water like a swan'; a huge peak, black and huge, as if with voluntary power instinct, upreared its head.'

4) **The Stolen Boat Poem Summary in English**

The cool summer evening provokes the boy to engage in some mischief. He decides to release a moored boat and take it away on the sea all by himself.

Everything around is still, and the sound of the splash of the oars seem to echo the loud heart-beats of the boy. He is feeling guilty for having taken the boat in a stealthy manner.

There is pale moonlight and it is reflected beautifully in the water. The boat sails smoothly like a swan.

The boy wants to take the boat to a craggy rock. As he nears it, there seems to arise behind the craggy rock a huge peak, black and menacing. As the boy grows closer to it, it seems to grow bigger and bigger. Very soon, it seems to be walking towards the boy in a threatening manner.

The boy gets terrified and immediately turns back. In a great hurry, he goes back to the cave and moors the boat.

For many days after, day and night, he is hunted by the 'huge' peak which seems to be moving towards him.

Chapter - 6: Buttoo

— By Toru Dutt

Comprehension Questions

I. Answer briefly the following questions.

1) Why had Buttoo gone to Dronacharya?

Answer:

Buttoo had gone to Dronacharya to learn the science of archery.

2) How did Drona respond to Buttoo's request?

Answer:

Buttoo was neither from a royal family nor rich. Hence he was rejected and driven away.

3) "I came here to learn 'thy science', says Buttoo? What does 'thy science' refer to?"

Answer:

Dronacharya's science refers to his expertise in archery.

4) Why did Buttoo revere Drona as his master?

Answer:

Buttoo revered Drona as his master because Drona was the best in archery, and Buttoo got his inspiration and knowledge from him.

5) Buttoo says "All that I have, all I shall conquer by my skill, gladly shall I to thee resign". This shows Buttoo's

- i. reverence to Drona
- ii. generosity
- iii. gratitude
- iv. foolishness

Answer:

- v. reverence to Drona.

6) "Rash promises ever ends in strife." By saying this Drona is

- a) warning Buttoo of unpleasant consequences
- b) offering Buttoo a chance to change his stance
- c) hinting that his demand for recompense could be damaging or destructive to Buttoo
- d) regretting the rash promise he had made to Aijuna

Answer:

Both (c) and (d).

7) What did Drona seek from Buttoo as recompense?

Answer:

Drona asked for Buttoo's right-hand thumb as recompense.

8) What justification did Drona give for his unfair demand?

Answer:

He says that he had promised Arjuna that he shall make Arjuna the best archer ever, and there shall be no equal to Arjuna at Archery.

9) "Buttoo", a small extract from a very long poem is composed in an Epic form. It makes use of archaic words like "unto", "thee" (line 1). Pick out the other archaic words from this extract.

Answer:

'thy', 'lo\ 'thou', 'hast', 'wilt', 'canst', 'aught'.

10) The poem makes use of the dialogue form. The two speakers in the poem are Drona and Buttoo. Identify the lines/passages spoken by each of the two.

Answer:

Drona: "It I'm Master between us new,"

"It is a promise ?"

"Beware! Rash promise ever ends in strife."

"If it is so – Arjuna hear !"

"For thy sake for thee."

"For this Modesty."

Buttoo: "Oh Master, unto thee from thee."

"All that I have they gracious will."

"Yes. I swear thou wilt."

"Thou art my Master from blame."

II. Close Study

Read the following extracts carefully. Discuss in pairs and then write the answers to the questions given below them:

1) "I press for this sad recompense", says Drona.

a) What does 'sad recompense' refer to?

Answer:

'Sad recompense' refers to the compensation or the fee that Dronacharya is asking from Buttoo for having learnt archery indirectly from him.

b) What does it tell us about Drona?

Answer:

It tells us that Drona is a very shrewd person, and also a person of his word. He has promised Aijuna that he will make Aijuna the best archer in the world. Now Drona realizes that Buttoo might prove to be better than Aijuna, and so to keep his promise to Aijuna, Drona asks for the gift from Buttoo.

c) If it was 'sad recompense', why did Drona demand it?

Answer:

Drona knows that what he is asking for is something very cruel. By asking for Buttoo's right thumb, Drona is ensuring that Buttoo will never be able to use the bow and arrow in his lifetime. Drona is aware that Buttoo worships him as his teacher and is ready to give up even his life for his sake. Yet he takes advantage of this reverence and favours his royal protégé, Aijuna. It is 'sad' because Drona has actually not done anything to make Buttoo an expert archer.

2) "The severed thumb was on the sod There was no tear in Buttoo's eye."

a) Why was the thumb severed?

Answer:

Drona asks for the right-hand thumb as a compensation for his teaching in absence. In reality, Drona wanted to ensure that there was no rival to Aijuna in archery.

b) Why was there no tear in Buttoo's eye?

Answer:

Buttoo understands his teacher's dilemma when Drona announces that he is doing this for Arjuna's sake, and to keep his own promise to Aijuna. Hence Buttoo doesn't regret cutting his thumb.

c) What does it tell you about Buttoo?

Answer:

Buttoo is truly more 'royal' in sensibility and nobler than the other students of Drona. He had once been rejected by Drona for not being from a royal family, and for being poor. But after his family, and for being poor. But after this incident, Buttoo appears richer and greater than any other person there, even his master.

III. Paragraph Writing

- 1) Discuss, in pairs, the great qualities of Buttoo and write down any five.

Answer:

Buttoo was low in caste but still aspired to be a great archer. He was also very dedicated to pursue knowledge.

Though he was rejected knowledge by Drona, he still worshipped Drona as a teacher and perfected the science of archeiy by himself. Buttoo was never vain, despite his talent; he was humble and acknowledged Drona as his inspiration.

Butto was not only physically * strong but also emotionally strong. Even unfairly losing his vital thumb, knowing that he would never be a great archeif, he still didn't get angry or reject Drona, he left the matter to God. He was at peace with nature and God.

Drona also saw Butto as a role model for 'self-help, truth and . modesty'. Conclusively we can say 'dedication, loyalty, humility, truthfulness, selflessness, sacrificing nature, brilliance in his art, intelligence, etc. are the great qualities of Butto.

- 2) Discuss the following in groups of 4 each and write in a paragraph. Was Drona unfair in his demand?

Answer:

Drona was the teacher of the Pandava and Kaurava Princes. He lived under their patronage, and was responsible for making the princes the best in the land of their chosen areas of warfare.

Thus, when Buttoo approached him for help in learning the art of archery, Drona rejected him and sent him away. Probably he had realized that Buttoo was not an ordinary hunter's boy. Yet he was loyal to the royal family and declined to teach Buttoo.

Buttoo, on his part, should have understood the sentiments of Drona and stayed away from archery. But he did not do so. He created an image of Drona and learnt archeiy in front to it.

When Drona realized that Butto had turned out to be a greater archer than Arjuna, he foresaw the threat to the princes.

When Butto also confessed that he had learnt it secretly from Drona's image, Drona got his opportunity.

Very shrewdly, and rather ruthlessly, he asked for the gift of his right-hand thumb from Butto, and eliminated all competition to his richer and more powerful students. He cannot be said to be unfair in his demand, though he was rather heartless.

Butto Poem Summary in English

Guru Dronacharya and butto (Ekalavya) is a famous story of Mahabharata era. Drona was very legendary and illustrious teacher. He taught only for princes and they become masters of all the arts which related to the warfare.

When Butto requested Drona to teach archery, Drona refused to teach as it was restricted to the royal princes. So Butto embarks upon an idea of self study. He installed the clay statue of Drona and able to gain the level of skill equivalent to that of Arjuna.

Once Butto was very much disturbed by barking dog. Furious Butto filled the mouth of the dog with seven arrows in fast succession. By seeing his talent Drona recalled Arjuna's claim that he would allow no other pupil to be the equivalent of Arjuna.

As a matter of promise, Drona asked him to give his right thumb, Butto, however, cheerfully and without any hesitation severed his right thumb and offered it to Drona. And took an oath of not to shoot hereafter. Drona accepted his Gurudakshina. Drona purposely asked his right-thumb so that Butto has to lose his ability to pursue archery. This poem personifies the noblest human qualities of Butto towards his master Dronacharya.

Chapter - 7: C.L.M.

— By John Masefield

Comprehension Questions

I. Answer briefly the following questions.

- 1) The second Line “My mother’s life made me a man”
- Just states a natural phenomenon of a mother giving birth to a son
 - has a hint that he was born at the cost of his mother’s life

Answer:

(b) has a hint that he was born at the cost of his mother’s life.

- 2) The phrase “Her beauty” in line 4 refers to
- The physical beauty of his mother
 - The ‘beauty’ of his mother’s physical and emotional trauma at the birth of the child

Answer:

(b) The ‘beauty’ of his mother’s physical and emotional trauma at the birth of the child.

- 3) Why does the poet use the present tense in lines 5 and 6?
- to emphasize that his very existence now is made possible by the death of ‘some of her’
 - to emphasize that every movement of his in his mother’s womb destroyed a part of her life
 - to show that his very birth and life are responsible for his mother’s partial death

Answer:

- d. to emphasize that every movement of his in his mother’s womb destroyed a part of her life.

- 4) What does ‘it’ in line 10 refer to?

Answer:

‘It’ refers to the life the mother gave to the boy.

- 5) “Her beauty” in line 12 refers to
- his mother’s physical beauty
 - her son, the poet

Answer:

- a. her son, the poet.

- 6) “dusty in the mind” in line 12 refers to
- (a) the fading memory of his mother in his mind
 - (b) the state of his dead mother’s mind which has forgotten the dear ones left behind

Answer:

(c) the fading memory of his mother in his mind.

- 7) “I am so grown” in line 15 means
- a. that he has grown so much physically that she would not be able to recognize him
 - b. that he has grown so unworthy of all her sacrifice that she would not be able to recognize him
 - c. both a and b

Answer:

d. both (a) and (b).

- 8) Which line in stanza 3 suggests that the poet is totally unworthy or ungrateful?

Answer:

‘She would not know her little son, I am so grown.’

- 9) Which phrase in stanza 4 suggests that his concern goes beyond his personal experience?

Answer:

‘What have I done to keep in mind my debt to her and womankind?’

- 10) “Providing a happier life to one’s mother will repay for all her sacrifice.” Is this what the poet says in lines 21 and 22 ?

Answer:

The poet says this and also something more. He means that a person should repay his mother not just by making her life better, but by making other women’s lives also better.

- 11) Stanza 4 has some very powerful and forceful images.

- a) What is compared to a – leech?

Answer:

The baby inside the mother’s womb...

- b) How is it a leech?

Answer:

It sucks on the life of the mother.

- c) What is unusual about the use of the word ‘leech’d’?

Answer:

The word 'leech'd is used for a parasite-like creature which feeds on the other and destroys it. Usually, babies who are entirely dependent on their mothers are referred to as leeches. But here the poet feels his mother has suffered a lot with every baby she carried, and hence he has been like a leech when he was in her womb.

d) Why is B in 'Birth' capitalized? (line 24)

Answer:

Birth is a very significant moment in the life of a baby or an individual because it signifies the separation of the baby from the mother and the need for the baby to fend for itself to a certain extent. It has come out of a warm, protective cave into a cold, harsh world.

e) For whom is birth a hell

- i. for the mother (for all her pain and suffering during the birth of her child)
- ii. for the son (who feels that it was because of his birth that his mother died, though partially)
- iii. for both

Answer:

- iii. for both.

12) Note that lines 19 to 26 introduce a series of rhetorical questions. (A rhetorical question is asked for effect rather than to obtain an answer. The answer is very much implied in the question itself.) Lines 19-20 are a good example of a rhetorical question. The meaning of the two lines is, "I have done nothing worth remembering to show my debt to my mother and womankind."

a) Identify 2 more examples of rhetorical questions.

Answer:

Lines 21-22: "What woman's happier life repays/Her for those months of wretched days?"

Lines 25-26: "What have I done, or tried or said / in thanks to that dear woman dead?"

b) Write down the actual meaning of each of them.

Answer:

Lines 21-22: "I have not repaid my mother for those months of wretched days by making a woman's life. happier."

Lines 25-26: "I have not done or tried or said anything to express my thanks to that dear dead woman."

13) "man's lust" in line 29 refers to

- a) man's beastly sexuality
- b) man's lust for power over women
- c) both a and b

Answer:

both (a) and (b).

14) The poet has used many poetical devices in the last line in order to draw the reader's attention to it.

a) What typographical deviation is used in the last line? Ans: (c) both (a) and (b).

Answer:

It is a single exclamatory sentence, unlike the rest that are in stanzas and is written as observations and rhetorical questions.

b) Why, do you think, has he used this deviation?

Answer:

He has used that form as an answer to all those questions and feelings he has outlined in the stanzas.

c) What figure of speech is used in this line?

Answer:

A hyperbole. It's an exaggerated statement highlighting the shame the poet is experiencing. Surely, a grave will not open and his mother will not come to life to put him to shame.

d) Why does the poet want the grave to keep shut?

Answer:

If his mother were to see him now, or women were to see mankind now, she/they would be ashamed.

e) How does the line end?

Answer:

The line ends with a regretful plea that the grave should remain shut.

15) The most dominant feeling of the poet in this poem is:

- a) a feeling of guilt
- b) a sense of ingratitude
- c) a sense of shame

Answer:

(c) a sense of shame.

16) Look at the rhyme scheme of the first stanza. The word 'began' rhymes with 'man'. The rhyme scheme is aa. 'Birth' in line 3 rhymes with 'earth' in line 4. The rhyme scheme is bb. 'stir' in line 5 rhymes with 'her' in line 6. The rhyme scheme is cc. So, the rhyme scheme of the first stanza is aa, bb, cc.

Now work out the rhyme scheme of the remaining 4 stanzas. Start with lines 7 and 8 as dd...

Answer:

1st Stanza : aa bb cc

2nd Stanza : dd ee ff

3rd Stanza : gg hh ii

4th Stanza : jj kk ll

5th Stanza : mm nn oo

II. Close Study:

Read the following extracts carefully. Discuss in pairs and then answer the questions given below them.

1) For all her love, she cannot tell Whether I use it ill or well.

a) Who do 'I' and 'she' refer to?

Answer:

I refers to the son, i.e., the poet, and 'she' refers to the mother.

b) What does 'it' in the second line refer to?

Answer:

'It' refers to the life that the mother has given the son.

c) Why is it that she cannot tell?

Answer:

She is dead and cannot see whether he lives well or not.

2) If we should meet, She would pass by me in the street Unless my soul's face let her see My sense of what she did to me.

a) Would it be possible for the mother and son to meet each other?

Answer:

No, since the mother is dead the son is still alive.

b) What is my figure of speech used in the expression 'soul's face'?

Answer:

Personification.

c) i. His soul would reveal

ii. his sense of gratitude to his mother

iii. his sense of ingratitude to his mother

Answer:

(ii) his sense of ingratitude to his mother.

III. Paragraph Writing:

Discuss in pairs/groups of four each the answers to the following questions. Note down the important points!' for each question and then develop the points into one-paragraph, answers.

1) The poem describes the poet's personal experience. Does it stop at that?

Answer:

It starts with how the mother gave her beauty to the child and lost a little with every birth.

She is dead, and the poet feels guilty that he has not used her gift properly.

When he thinks about how he has helped to make any woman's life better, he realizes that he has not done anything at all.

Women all over the world are still exploited, tormented and oppressed by men.

Answer:

The poet doesn't stop at his personal experience. There is a strong opinion about women's right that is communicated in the poem. A woman's role as a mother, a woman who is made powerless by a man, a woman who has to fight for every right and men who force her into those situations and worse should be ashamed.

2) Do you like the poem? Why?

Answer:

The poet talks about a common event in a very unusual manner.

Everyone feels indebted to the mother for their birth, but the poet's intensity of feelings makes it a very poignant experience.

the poet's perception of the mother's sacrifice in giving birth to children is uncommon.

In return for the mother's sacrifice, the poet wants to make another woman's life better. This is a wonderful thought.

Prasanth Kumar Royal's

NON-DETAIL

Chapter - 1: Karna

Comprehension Questions

I. Answer briefly the following questions.

1) Why was a large crowd assembled in the arena?

Answer:

The Pandavas and the Kauravas had learnt the practice of arms first from Kripacharya and later from Drona. A day was fixed for a test and exhibition of their proficiency in the use of arms in the presence of the Royal family. The public too had been invited to witness the performance of their beloved princes. Thus there was a large crowd assembled in the arena.

2) What did Duryodhana envy?

Answer:

Arjuna displayed superhuman skill with his weapons and this earned the wonder and admiration of the whole crowd assembled there. This scene made Duryodhana envious and hateful towards Arjuna.

3) How does the writer introduce the Kama to the assembly?

Answer:

The writer introduces the Kama in a very impressive manner. At the close of the day, there came suddenly from the entrance of the arena a sound, loud and compelling like thunder, the sound made by the slapping of mighty arms in challenge. All eyes turned in that direction. They saw enter through the crowd, which made way in awed silence, a godlike youth from whom light and power seemed to emanate. He was Kama.

4) What was the cause for Duryodhana's exultation?

Answer:

after Arjuna's exhibition of his superhuman skill with his weapons, with Drona's permission, Kama, then and there, duplicated all Arjuna's feats with careless ease. This made Duryodhana feel exulted.

5) How does Kama challenge Arjuna?

Answer:

Laughing is scorn, Kama says: "This arena is open to all, O Arjuna, and not to you alone. Might is the sanction of sovereignty and the law is based on it. But what is the use of mere talk which is the weapon of the weak? Shoot arrows instead of words."

6) Who were the divine parents of the two heroes?

Answer:

Indra, the lord of the thunderclouds was the parent of Aijuna, whereas Bhaskara of the infinite rays, was the parent of Kama.

7) Why was Kunti stupefied?

Answer:

When Kunti saw Kama, she recognized him as her first born, and now seeing him get ready to fight with her other son, Aijuna, she was stupefied with anguish not knowing how to stop the fight between brothers.

8) Why did Kripacharya object to Kama joining in the battle?

Answer:

Kripacharya objected to Kama joining in the battle because his lineage and parentage were unknown, and, Aijuna being a high-born prince, could not engage in single combat with unknown adventurers.

9) How did Duryodhana restore Karana's honour?

Answer:

Duryodhana announced that he would crown Kama as the king of Anga. He obtained the assent of Bhisma and Dhritarashtra, performed all the necessary rites and invested Kama with the sovereigns of the Kingdom of Anga giving him the crown, jewels and other royal insignia.

10) How does Bhima ridicule Kama?

Answer:

On seeing the charioteer call Kama his son, Bhima roared with laughter and said: "O he is after all only the son of a charioteer! Take up the driving whip then as befits thy parentage. Thou art not worthy of death at the hands of Aijuna. Nor should thou reign in Anga as a king."

11) How does Duryodhana defend Karna against Bhima's accusations?

Answer:

Duryodhana admonishes Bhima for speaking so contemptuously about Karna. He says that great heroes and mighty rivers should not be traced to their sources, and points out that there might be awkward questions about Bhima's origin also. He points to Karna's godlike form and bearing, his armour and earrings, and his skill with weapons, and says that he has to be of a noble birth, and is definitely worthy to rule the whole world.

12) How and why did Indra approach Karna?

Answer:

Indra foresaw that a supreme contest was inevitable between his son Arjuna and Karna; and he put on the garb of a Brahman and came to Karna, who was reputed for his charity, and begged of him his earrings and armour.

13) Why couldn't Karna refuse the gift asked of him?

Answer:

Karna could not bring himself to refuse any gift that was asked of him.

What does this tell us about Karna's character?

Answer:

This tells us that Karna is a very kind and dignified person who will not deny anyone anything.

14) Why does Indra offer a boon to Karna? What is the boon?

Answer:

Indra was filled with surprise and joy when Karna cut off his earrings and armour with which he was born and gave them to him. In return, he told Karna to ask for a boon. As Karna desired to get Indra's weapon, the Sakti, Indra granted the boon.

15) Indra granted the boon with a condition. What was the condition?

Answer:

Indra said that Karna could use the Sakti weapon only against one enemy, and it would kill him whosoever he might be. But after this killing was over, the weapon would no longer be available to him. Instead, it would go back to Indra.

16) How did Parasurama realise that Karna was not a Brahmana?

Answer:

When Parasurama was reclining on Karna's lap, a stinging worm burrowed into Karna's thigh. Blood began to flow and the pain was terrible, but Karna bore it without tremor for fear that the master's sleep should be disturbed. When Parasurama awoke and saw the blood

flowing from the wound, he said : “Dear pupil, you are not a brahamana. A Kshatriya alone can remain unmoved under all bodily torments.”

17) What was Parasurama’s curse?

Answer:

Parasurama curses Kama that, as he had deceived his guru, the Brahmastra that he had learnt from the Guru shall fail him at the fated moment. Karna would be unable to recall the invocatory mantra when his hour comes.

18) What does Bhishma ask Karna to do?

Answer:

Bhishma asks Karna to befriend the Pandavas, since that was the right path for Karna who was their brother.

19) What does Karna say about his loyalty to Duryodhana?

Answer:

Karna says that he has eaten 1 Duryodhana’s salt and so must be true to him, to be true to his own lineage. He says that Bhishma should permit, Karna) to repay with his life the debt he owes to . Duryodhana for his love and trust.

20) How does Lord Krishna save Aijuna from Kama’s arrow?

Answer:

Lord Krishna, who was Aijuna’s charioteer, at the nick of time, pressed the vehicle down five fingers deep in the mud, so that the serpent shaft just missed Aijuria’s head but struck off his helmet.

21) What mishap happened to Kama’s chariot?

Answer:

The left wheel of Kama’s chariot suddenly sank in the blood mire, and would not allow the chariot to move.

22) When Karna appeals to Arjuna’s sense of dharma Lord Krishna recounts many acts of Kama and the Kauravas which violated fair play and chivalry. Pick out any 3 such acts.

Answer:

Kama, along with Duryodhana, Dushyshana and Sakuni, had dragged Draupadi to thf^all of Assembly and insulted her.

Kama had conspired with the wicked men who had sought to poison and kill Bhima.

(in) Kama had agreed to the plot to burn the Pandavas alive when sleeping in the palace of wax to which they had been lured.

23) What was Kama's response to Lord Krishna's denouncement ?

Answer:

When Krishna was denouncing him, Kama bent his head in shame and uttered not a word. What does this tell you about Kama?

Answer:

It tells us that Kama was not truly wicked, but was forced by his gratitude and loyalty to Duryodhana to assist him in all his wicked deeds. '

24) Why was Arjuna's mind wavering when Lord Krishna asked him to slay Kama?

Answer:

Lord Krishna urged Arjuna to kill Kama when he was vainly trying to raise his chariot out of the mud in which it had stuck. According to the code of honour and laws of war prevailing then, it was wholly wrong to attack such a warrior. Hence Arjuna's mind wavered.

25) Was killing Kama when he was not ready for the fight wrong?

Answer:

According to the code of honour and laws of war prevailing then, it was wholly wrong to kill Kama when he was not ready for the fight. But it was Lord Krishna who revealed the absence of fair play in Kama's behaviour and how he had breached the dharma, and urged Arjuna to shoot. Arjuna had not done this on his own. Hence it was not wrong.

26) How does the poet justify this wrong?

Answer:

The poet does not have the heart to impute this act of Arjuna who was the embodiment of nobility. It was Lord Krishna who had incited Arjuna to kill Kama when he was not ready for the fight. Except for the Lord Himself, no one could bear the responsibility for breaches of dharma.

II. Discuss in pairs and answer the following questions.

1) Kama is easily one of the most tragic and compelling characters of the epic. List any 5 great qualities of Kama which you admire most. Justify your choice of qualities.

Answer:

Kama's superhuman courage to challenge Arjuna to a battle is admirable.

When he was told by Bhishma that he should give his enmity with the Pandavas and not fight them as he himself is a Pandava, Karna told him that he couldn't be disloyal to Duryodhana whose salt he had eaten. Even if he had to give up his life he'd fight the Pandavas as he was indebted to Duryodhana for his love and trust. This showed that he was loyal.

When the wheel of his chariot got stuck in the mud, he called on Arjuna to honour dharma and not take advantage of his accident and attack him. Lord Krishna taunted Karna for the number of occasions when he had himself violated dharma. Karna could easily have surrendered to Arjuna or run away from fighting him. Instead, he showed great courage and presence of mind and tried to stun Arjuna by sending him an arrow of great power to win a respite and set the chariot wheel free.

When Krishna was denouncing him for having violated dharma, he had the discretion not to say a word, but listen to him with his head bent in shame.

Karna is known for his generosity. He couldn't refuse any one any gift. When Indra asked for his earrings and armour he gave it to him readily.

Karna Summary in English

The Pandavas and the Kauravas learnt the practice of arms both from Kripacharya and Dronacharya.

A day was fixed for the test and the public was also invited to witness it.

Arjuna showed his skills with weapons and Duryodhana got jealousy of him. At the close of the day, a youth entered and challenged Arjuna.

Kripacharya, who knew the rules of single combat, told Karna that only a high-born prince can fight him.

On hearing this, Karna bent down his head but Duryodhana immediately crowned him as the King of Anga.

The combat was interrupted by the entry of Adhiratha, Karna's foster father and Duryodhana drove away Karna in his chariot.

Indra, on the other hand, realised the gravity of the situation and put on the garb of a Brahman to ask Karna for his earrings and armour in charity. Despite Sun God's warning to Karna, he cut off both the things and gave them to the Brahmana.

Indra became happy and bade Karna to ask for any boon he wanted. Karna asked for the weapon (Sakti) which had the power to kill enemies and his wish was granted.

Karna became the disciple of Parasuram. He learnt from his the mantra for using Brahmastra. Once Karna told a lie to his guru that he was a Brahmana. When the truth came out, Parasuram got angry and cursed him saying that the Brahmastra would fail him at a crucial moment.

Before going for the battle karna went to Bhishma for his blessings and he got it from him. Then started the great battle with Karna fighting from Duryodhana's side.

At one moment, the wheel of his chariot sunk five fingers deep in the mud.

Arjuna aimed at him and Karna was reminded of Parasurama's curse.

Krishna also reminded him of all his bad deeds which he had done in the company of Duryodhana.

Karna bent his head in shame but again tried to take out the wheel from the mud.

Arjuna's mind was wavering but Krishna told him to sever the head of Karna which he did.

Thus, ended the life-story of a brave warrior.

Chapter - 2: Ulysses and the Cyclops

— By Charles Lamb

Comprehension Questions

I. Answer briefly the following questions.

1) Who were Cyclops?

Answer:

The cyclops were giant shepherds who lived on the steep heads of mountains in caves.

2) Pick any 5 details to show that they were not civilized.

Answer:

The Cyclops neither sowed nor ploughed, but the earth untilled produced for them rich wheat and barley and grapes. They had neither bread nor wine, nor did they know the arts of cultivation, not cared to know them.

They lived each man to himself, without laws or government or anything like a state or kingdom. Their dwellings were in caves on the steep heads of mountains, every man's household governed by his own caprice or not governed at all. They did not have any ships or boats, no trade or commerce or wish to visit other shores.

3) Why did Ulysses and his men enter the habitation of the Cyclops?

Answer:

Ulysses, with Chosen party of twelve followers, landed, to explore what sort of men dwelt there, whether hospitable or friendly to strangers or altogether wild and savage.

4) How strong was the Greek wine?

Answer:

The Greek wine was so strong that no one ever drank it without an infusion of twenty parts of water to one wine, yet the fragrance of it even then so delicious, that it would have vexed a man who smelled it to abstain from tasting it; but whoever tasted it, it was able to raise his courage to the height of heroic deeds.

5) How did Ulysses introduce himself and his group to the Cyclops?

Answer:

Ulysses said that they came neither for plunder, nor business, but were Grecians, who had lost their way, returning from Troy. He added that they acknowledged him to be mightier than them, and hence prostrated themselves humbly before his feet.

6) What horrid response did the Cyclop give to Ulysses; request for hospitality?

Answer:

The cyclop replied nothing, but gripping two of the nearest of Ulysses' followers as if they had been no more than children, he dashed their brains out against the earth, and tore in pieces their limbs, and devoured them, yet warm and trembling, making a lion's meal of them lapping the blood.

7) What prevented Ulysses from attacking the Cyclop with his sword?

Answer:

When the Cyclop slept among his goats, Ulysses wanted to draw his sword and thrust it with all his might into the bosom of the sleeping monster; but wiser thought restrained him because he realized that he would need Polyphemus alive as only he could have removed the mass of stone which he had placed to guard the entrance.

8) How did Ulysses prove that "manly wisdom excels brutish force"?

Answer:

Ulysses hatched a plot to incapacitate the Cyclop and escape from the cave alive. He chose a stake from among the wood which the Cyclop had piled up for firing, in length and thickness like a mast, which he sharpened, and hardened in the fire; and selected four men, and instructed them what they should do with his stake and made them perfect in their parts.

9) What 'gift' does the Cyclop offer Ulysses in return for the wine?

Answer:

The Cyclop took the wine and drank it, and vehemently enjoyed the taste of wine, which was new to him, and swilled gain at the flagon, and entreated for more; and prayed Ulysses to tell him his name, that he might bestow a gift upon the man who had given him such brave liquor. When Ulysses says that this name is Noman, the Cyclop promises Ulysses that he will eat him after he has eaten all of Ulysses' friends.

10) How do the brave Greeks blinden the Cyclop?

Answer:

Ulysses waited for some time while the Cyclops lay insensible; and heartening up his men, they placed the sharp end of the stake in the fire till it was heated red-hot; and the four men with difficulty bored the sharp end of the huge stake, which they heated red-hot, right into the single eye of the drunken cannibal.

11) Why didn't the fellow Cyclops help Polyphemus when he cried out for help? •

Answer:

When the fellow Cyclops came flocking from all parts to inquire what troubled Polyphemus, Polyphemus answered from within the cave that Noman had hurt him and Noman was with him in the cave. The other Cyclops thought that Polyphemus was alone in the cave 'and no one had hurt him but he himself. So they went away, thinking that some disease troubled him.

12) How did Ulysses help his men escape from the cave?

Answer:

Ulysses made knots of osier twigs upon which the Cyclops, commonly slept, with which he tied the fattest and fleeciast of the rams together, three in a rank; and under the middle ram he tied a man. Thus the man could escape from the cave along with the ram which was moving towards its accustomed pasture.

13) How did Ulysses himself escape from the cave?

Answer:

Ulysses wrapped himself fast with both his hand in the rich wool of a ram, the fairest of the flock. As the sheep passed the doorway of the cave, the Cyclops who was sitting there at the threshold, felt the back of those fleecy wools, without realizing that they carried his enemies under them. When the last ram came with Ulysses under it, the Cyclops stopped the ram and felt it, and had his hand once in the hair of Ulysses, but did not recognize it.

14) How did Ulysses introduce himself to the Cyclops at the end of the story?

Answer:

Ulysses introduced himself as 'Ulysses, son of Laertes; he was called the King of Ithaca and a waster of cities'.

II. Do you remember any story from our own epics where the hero destroys a wicked giant?

Narrate the story to the class.

Answer:

The stories of Bhima killing Bakasura, or Shri Krishna killing Putini can be narrated.

Ulysses and the Cyclops summary in English

Ulysses was the son of Laertes, the King of the Island of Ithaca in Greece.

After the Trojan war, he embarked to return home. On his way back, he reached a giant's cave which was rudely fashioned. The owner was not present in the cave. He and his men stayed there the whole day when suddenly they heard a thundering sound.

The owner, a Cyclop, had come back after gazing his sheep and goats. The Grecians hid themselves in the remote parts of the cave and started waiting for Polyphemus, a one-eyed Cyclop.

The Cyclop entered the cave with all his female sheep and goats and closed the mouth of a cave with a huge stone.

Then he started milking his flock of sheep and goats. During this he saw some of Ulysses' men hiding in the cave. He took hold of two of them, smashed their heads and ate them since he was a cannibal. Then he went to sleep.

Ulysses wanted to kill him at that moment but realised that the stone was too huge to be moved by any of his men.

The next day, Polyphemus again went out with his sheep and closed the mouth of the cave with the stone.

Ulysses took advantage of this time- and made some preparations to tackle the Cyclop.

In the evening when Polyphemus came back, he served him wine which he enjoyed. But soon the wine had its effect and the giant reeled on the floor and sank into a deep sleep.

Ulysses was waiting for this time. He, with the help of his four men, blinded the monster with a burning stake. The monster cried loudly. Many of the villagers living nearby came and asked what had happened. The monster replied that no man (Noman – the false name which Ulysses had told him) had hurt him. All of them went back.

Then Ulysses tied all of his men under the sheep's goats. When the monster opened the cave-door next morning to take out his flock, all the Greeks who were tied to them, came out of the cave and were thus saved.